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N. Korea calls Trump 'erratic old man' as tensions rise

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired back against President Donald Trump on Monday, calling him a “heedless and erratic old man” and warning of “bigger catastrophic consequences” if the U.S. fails to meet an end-of-year deadline to revive nuclear talks.

Two officials issued back-to-back statements in response to tweets by Trump admonishing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un not to resume hostilities amid fears that the communist state might be preparing to test-fire an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Kim Yong Chol, a senior North Korean official who met with Trump twice last year when diplomatic efforts were at a high point, reiterated that the North might resume calling Trump a dotard, an insult it used frequently as tensions spiked in 2017.

“As he is such a heedless and erratic old man, the time when we cannot but call him a ‘dotard’ again may come,” he was quoted as saying by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

He also said the friendship between Kim and Trump, which the president has frequently touted as progress, was at risk.

“We make clear once again that the [North Korean leader] has not used any irritating expression towards the U.S. president as (of) yet,” he said, warning that may

SEE KOREA ON PAGE 3

A secret history

US officials misled public about Afghan War, confidential documents reveal

This is an abridged version. For the full report, visit [stripes.com/go/afghanpapers](https://www.stripes.com/go/afghanpapers)

By CRAIG WHITLOCK
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON
A confidential trove of government documents obtained by The Washington Post reveals that senior U.S. officials failed to tell the truth about the war in Afghanistan throughout the 18-year campaign, making rosy pronouncements they knew to be false and

hiding unmistakable evidence the war had become unwinnable.

The documents were generated by a federal project examining the root failures of the longest armed conflict in U.S. history. They include more than 2,000 pages of previously unpublished notes of interviews with people who played a direct role in the war, from generals and diplomats to aid workers and Afghan officials.

The U.S. government tried to shield the identities of the vast majority of those interviewed for the project and to conceal nearly

all of their remarks. The Post won release of the documents under the Freedom of Information Act after a three-year legal battle.

In the interviews, more than 400 insiders offered unrestrained criticism of what went wrong in Afghanistan and how the U.S. became mired in nearly two decades of warfare.

With a bluntness rarely expressed in public, the interviews lay bare pent-up complaints, frustrations and confessions, along with second-guessing and backbiting.

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A joint artillery training session is conducted at a combat outpost in Jaghatu, Wardak province, Afghanistan, in 2012.

LORENZO TUGNOLI/For The Washington Post

“Trump has too many things that he does not know about [North Korea]. We have nothing more to lose.”

Ri Su Yong
Workers' Party of North Korea

BUSINESS/WEATHER

State AGs look to head off T-Mobile-Sprint deal

By Tali Arbel
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A high-drama telecom deal is heading to court.

T-Mobile, in its attempt to buy Sprint for \$26.5 billion, has already notched approvals from key federal regulators. Now it must convince a federal judge that the 14 state attorneys general suing to stop the deal are wrong.

A trial starts Monday in U.S. District Court in New York and is expected to last several weeks.

If T-Mobile prevails, the number of major U.S. wireless companies would shrink to three from four. A combined T-Mobile-Sprint would become a fiercer competitor to larger Verizon and AT&T. But the states argue that having one fewer mobile carrier would reduce competition and cost Americans billions of dollars in higher phone bills.

T-Mobile and Sprint provide cheaper alternatives to Verizon and AT&T, and T-Mobile has branded itself the "Un-carrier,"

one that has made consumer-friendly changes such as bringing back unlimited data plans and shattering two-year service contracts. There are concerns that less competition would put an end to those types of changes, although T-Mobile says it won't.

T-Mobile and Sprint say a merger is needed because Sprint by itself is weak. Sprint's network quality is worse than its rivals', and it has been losing customers, limiting its ability to invest in network improvements.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 10)	\$1.1361
Dollar buys (Dec. 10)	60.8802
British pound (Dec. 10)	\$1.35
Japanese yen (Dec. 10)	105.00
South Korean won (Dec. 10)	1,158.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.3146
Canada (Dollar)	1.3227
China (Yuan)	7.0397
Denmark (Krone)	6.7488
Egypt (Pound)	16.1744
Euro	\$1.1072/0.9032
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8281
Hungary (Forint)	299.49
Israel (Shekel)	3.4705
Japan (Yen)	108.51
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3037
Norway (Krone)	9.1444
Philippines (Peso)	50.85
Poland (Zloty)	3.87
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3594
South Korea (Won)	1,190.48
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9894
Thailand (Baht)	30.31
Turkey (Lira)	4.8066

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.56
3-month bill	1.49
30-year bond	2.24

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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LETTERS TO SANTA

Stars and Stripes Europe is helping your children get their letters to Santa!

Send your letters to:

Santa Claus
c/o Stars and Stripes
North Pole

and drop it in any US or APO mailbox*
visit letterstosanta.stripes.com for more info

*Postmark by Dec. 24th and Santa may have time to send a note in return!

PACIFIC

US, Japan militaries begin drills in Tokyo

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

CAMP ASAKA, Japan — One thousand soldiers from the U.S. Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force began two weeks of drills Monday at this base in Tokyo.

Yama Sakura-77, which runs through Dec. 16, aims to prepare the nations' ground forces to conduct operations together against an invading enemy force, officials said.

The drills kicked off days after President Donald Trump revealed at the NATO summit in London that he had asked Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to help America out with the cost of stationing troops in Japan.

"You are a wealthy nation and we are paying essentially for your military," he told reporters.

To begin Yama Sakura-77 at the Eastern Army's headquarters, U.S. and Japanese troops, along with military observers



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

U.S. soldiers stand in formation during a ceremony to kick off the Yama Sakura -77 exercise with Japan at Camp Asaka in Tokyo on Monday.

from Australia, Canada and Britain, stood in formation and yelled, "Together to the future!"

Troops will rehearse and re-

fine the processes they'll use if ordered to conduct operations together, 1 Corps commander Lt. Gen. Gary Volesky told report-

ers after the formation. Yama Sakura-77 is a headquarters, or command post, exercise that involves theoretical scenarios rat-

her than troops and equipment in the field.

Air Force and Marine Corps personnel are also involved in the training, he said.

"There's not one service in the military that's going to be able to operate and win independently," he said. "We are going to rely on every other service as well as our partners."

Eastern Army commander Lt. Gen. Takayuki Onozuka said troops are training to conduct cross-domain operations in space, cyberspace and across the electromagnetic spectrum, which encompasses waves and frequencies used in electronic communication and sensing.

During the exercise the Eastern Army, tasked with security during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, will also train to respond to terrorism, guerrilla warfare and missile attacks in the national capital region, he said.

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Yokota post office flooded with mail

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Residents at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo have received so many packages that the post office has run out of room, according to the Yokota Military Postal Service.

"We have reached maximum capacity and can no longer process anymore mail," the facility warned in a Facebook post Monday. "Please come by the Post Office at your earliest convenience to pick up your packages so we can clear enough space to process more mail."

A photograph with the message shows mail clerks standing among a flood of mailbags and boxes, many bearing the logo of online retailer Amazon.

Last week, the post office received more than 3,000 items weighing more than 14,000 pounds, not counting mailbags that each contain up to 25 items, according to Airman 1st Class Faith Boston, 21, a mail clerk from Wesley Chapel, Fla.

Last month, the Yokota post office changed its system for retrieving packages, and staff stopped placing paper notices in customers' boxes informing them that an item had arrived.

To collect a package, customers must now either print out an email notification or fill out a yellow card at the post office with their name, box number and the shelf location of their package.

"The goal is to ensure timeliness of delivery, especially moving into the holiday season," 374th Airlift Wing spokeswoman Kaori

Matsukasa said in an email when the change was implemented last month.

Some who commented on the post office's Facebook post Monday said they were expecting packages but hadn't received email notices. Those people should check their spam/junk email folder or visit customer service for help, the post office said.

A line of people attempting to collect packages Monday afternoon stretched from the mail-room window to the end of the building.

When Joy Childers, 25, of Falkville, Ala., tried to collect a package Monday, she said she was told it might have been returned to the sender.

The Air Force spouse said she contacted the post office two months after ordering a cellphone



U.S. Air Force

Airmen pose with packages inside the post office at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Monday.

case for her husband and was told it had arrived. However, it wasn't there when she showed up. She was sent to customer service to find out if it had been sent back to China.

Boston, the mail clerk, said online sales appear to be a factor in the extra mail.

"There are more sales than before," she said. "Veterans Day sales, Black Friday, Cyber Mon-

day. There's always something and I guess people are taking advantage of it."

About 10 volunteers have been showing up at the post office each day to help sort mail this month, Boston said.

"They've seen how overwhelmed we are," she said.

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Korea: North warns Trump against 'abusive language' toward Kim Jong Un

FROM FRONT PAGE

change if things continue on their current course.

Last year, Trump said he and Kim "fell in love" and he has largely dismissed recent military activity by the North. But he adopted a more threatening tone after the North announced it had conducted a "very important test" at a long-range rocket launching site on Saturday.

"Kim Jong Un is too smart and has far too much to lose, everything actually, if he acts in a hostile way," Trump tweeted on Sunday. "North Korea, under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, has tremendous economic potential, but it must denuclearize as promised."

He was referring to an agreement issued by the two leaders after their first summit in Singapore in June 2018 in which they made a vague promise to "work toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

Diplomatic efforts have stalled as the two sides failed to agree on the details of how to achieve that goal, with many experts saying the North has no intention of giving up its nuclear weapons.

Over the weekend, the president also revived his "rocket man" nickname for Kim and threatened to use military force if necessary.

Beyond the name-calling, North Korea has conducted 13 weapons tests this year that experts say shows it is taking advantage of

the diplomatic deadlock to make advances in its nuclear weapons program.

"Trump has too many things that he does not know about [North Korea]. We have nothing more to lose," Kim Yong Chol said.

The vice-chairman of the central committee of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, Ri Su Yong, issued a separate statement noting that Kim Jong Un would make a final decision at the end of the year.

"Trump might be in great jitters but he had better accept the status quo ... and think twice if he does not want to see bigger catastrophic consequences," Ri said, according to KCNA.

Kim "has neither clarified any

stand yet nor made any ironic and irritating expressions toward the other party as done by someone," Ri said. "Trump would be well advised to quit abusive language which may further offend the chairman."

The North provided no details about what was tested Saturday at the Sobae Satellite Launching Ground near the border with China.

Experts said it was likely a test of a solid-fuel engine that could be used to power an ICBM, although that couldn't be confirmed.

North Korea has stopped short of lifting its self-imposed moratorium on long-range missile and nuclear tests, which the Trump administration has signaled

would be a red line since they pose a threat to the U.S. mainland.

Kim has set an end-of-year deadline for the U.S. to offer a more flexible approach to negotiations, saying he may be forced to seek a "new way" if that doesn't happen.

A North Korean diplomat also said last week that it is "entirely" up to the U.S. what "Christmas gift" it wants to receive.

The renewed saber-rattling has raised concern that the adversaries may be returning to a cycle of threats and missile tests that pushed the divided peninsula to the brink of war in 2017.

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MILITARY

AFRICOM wants back drone shot down over Libya

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. wants back a drone that was shot down over Libya last month by a Russian air defense system believed to have been operated by mercenaries or militiamen, U.S. Africa Command said Monday.

"We believe the LNA or Russians didn't know it was a U.S. remotely piloted aircraft when they fired on it," AFRICOM Gen. Stephen J. Townsend said in a statement. "But they certainly know who it belongs to now and they are refusing to return it. They say they don't know where it is but I am not buying it."

The so-called Libyan National Army he was referring to is led by renegade "Field Marshal" Khalifa Hifter, who has been fighting the internationally recognized central government in Tripoli since 2011.

While it's possible that the LNA manned the Russian system that

shot down the drone, AFRICOM said it thinks foreign mercenaries, such as the private Russian military contractors who recently began collaborating with Hifter's forces, were more likely responsible.

"The involvement of Russian private contractors or mercenaries is preventing peaceful resolution, prolonging conflict and helping to fuel the civil war," said AFRICOM spokesman Col. Chris Karns.

The downing of the drone underscores U.S. concerns about Russian involvement in Libya, which has been in a state of civil war ever since NATO's 2011 bombing campaign helped topple long-time dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

While numerous militia groups operate in Libya, Hifter's army has emerged as the main threat to the U.S.-backed government of National Accord. In April, Hifter's offensive on Tripoli forced the U.S. to pull a small cadre of



U.S. Africa Command

Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, commander of U.S. Africa Command, says he "isn't buying" that whoever shot down a U.S. drone over Libya last month doesn't know where it is.

troops out of Libya.

The U.S. continues to routinely conduct surveillance operations in Libya in coordination with the national government.

In September, a series of airstrikes launched by AFRICOM killed more than 30 militants, at least 17 of whom were identified as Islamic State-aligned terrorists.

The U.S. has raised concerns that the ongoing conflict and overall disorder in Libya could enable terrorist groups such as ISIS to seek sanctuary in the North African country.

"U.S. Africa Command remains committed to monitoring terrorist activity in Libya for the betterment of Libya and the region," Karns said.

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Official: Gunman tweeted against U.S. before shooting

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON
AND MIKE BALSAMO
Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — The Saudi gunman who killed three people at the Pensacola naval base had apparently gone on Twitter shortly before the shooting to blast U.S. support of Israel and accuse America of being anti-Muslim, a U.S. official said Sunday as the FBI confirmed it is operating on the assumption the attack was an act of terrorism.

Investigators are also trying to establish whether the killer, 2nd Lt. Mohammed Alshamrani, 21, of the Royal Saudi Air Force, acted alone or was part of a larger plot.

Alshamrani, who was killed by a sheriff's deputy during the rampage at a classroom building Friday, was undergoing flight training at Pensacola, where members of foreign militaries routinely receive instruction.

"We are, as we do in most active-shooter investigations, work with the presumption that this was an act of terrorism," said Rachel J. Rojas, the special agent in charge of the FBI's office in Jacksonville.

Authorities believe the gunman made social media posts criticizing the U.S. under a user handle similar to his name, but federal law enforcement officials are investigating whether he authored the words or just posted them, said the official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Also, investigators believe the gunman visited New York City, including Rockefeller Center, days before the shooting and are working to determine the purpose of the trip, the official said.

All foreign students at the Pensacola base have been accounted for, no arrests have been made, and the community is under no immediate threat, Rojas said at a news conference. A Saudi commanding officer has ordered all students from the country to remain at one location at the base, authorities said.

"There are a number of Saudi students who are close to the shooter and continue to cooperate in this investigation," Rojas said. "The Saudi government has pledged to fully cooperate with our investigation."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said the investigation was proceeding under "the presumption that this was an act of terrorism" and he called for better vetting of foreigners allowed into the U.S. for training on American bases.

Speaking at a news conference Sunday afternoon, DeSantis also said the gunman had a social media trail and a "deep-seated hatred of the United States."

He said he thought such an attack could have been prevented

with better vetting.

"You have to take precautions" to protect the nation, DeSantis said.

"I have this individual be able to take out three of our sailors, to me that's unacceptable," the governor added.

Earlier in the week of the shooting, Alshamrani hosted a dinner party where he and three others watched videos of mass shootings, another U.S. official told the AP on Saturday.

Alshamrani used a Glock 9 mm weapon that had been purchased legally in Florida, Rojas said. DeSantis questioned whether foreigners should continue to be allowed under federal law to buy guns in the U.S. and called it a "federal loophole."

Republican DeSantis said he supports the Second Amendment but at it "does not apply to Saudi Arabians."

The official who spoke Saturday said one of the three students who attended the dinner party hosted by the attacker recorded video outside the classroom building while the shooting was taking place. Two other Saudi students watched from a car, the official said.

In a statement, the FBI confirmed Sunday that it had obtained base surveillance videos as well as cellphone footage taken by a bystander outside the building, and had also interviewed that person.

Rojas would not directly answer when asked whether other students knew about the attack beforehand or whether there was anything " nefarious " about the making of the video. She said that a lot of information needs to be confirmed by investigators and that she did not want to contribute to "misinformation" circulating about the case.

Rojas said federal authorities are focused on questioning the gunman's friends, classmates and other associates. "Our main goal is to confirm if he acted alone or was he part of a larger network," she said.

President Donald Trump's national security adviser, Robert O'Brien, said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the shooting looked like "terrorism or akin to terrorism." But he cautioned that the FBI was still investigating.

"Look, to me it appears to be a terrorist attack," he said. "I don't want to prejudice the investigation, but it appears that this may be someone that was radicalized." O'Brien said he did not see evidence so far of a "broader plot."

The U.S. has long had a robust training program for Saudis, providing assistance in the U.S. and in the kingdom. More than 850 Saudis are in the United States for various training activities. They are among more than 5,000 foreign students from 153 countries in the U.S. going through military training.

DODEA school closes to honor decree after Bahrain squad's big soccer win

By JOSHUA KARSTEN
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Students at the Defense Department school here Sunday, defeating neighboring Saudi Arabia, 1-0, in Qatar.

The Bahrain School, run by the Department of Defense Education Activity on the U.S. Navy base there, also closed for the day.

The Bahrain School, run by the Department of Defense Education Activity on the U.S. Navy base there, operates independently but decided to "honor the decree from the king," principal Penelope Miller-Smith said.

"Bahrain School is proud to celebrate alongside our Bahraini students, families and community members regarding last night's monumental win of the Arabian Gulf Cup," Miller-Smith said in a statement.

The day off isn't the first popular decision among many students in Bahrain. In September, the Bahrain School stopped giving homework, except reading assignments, following an announce-



Bahrain News Agency

Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa declared Monday a holiday after the national soccer team won the Arabian Gulf Cup. The Bahrain School, run by the Department of Defense Education Activity on the U.S. Navy base there, also closed for the day.

ment by the Bahrain Education Ministry decision that homework was to be "replaced by daily hands-on exercises implemented by students under teachers' supervision inside the classroom." The base school, which includes Bahraini students, said it made the decision separately from the Education Ministry.

Late night emails, phone and social media messages advised parents the school would honor the king's soccer celebration wish and close for the day. On-base day care and teen centers remained open but a separate message announced that a holiday choir per-

formance by elementary school students was canceled.

"Good thing my husband and I were still awake when it happened," said Grace Wade, mother of a first grader. "I am sure a lot of parents were not aware of it until they woke up this morning."

Another elementary school mom, Carmen Sunderland, compared the unscheduled day off to a snow day back home: Kids love them, while for parents, they can pose logistical problems.

"You always have to be ready," she said.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Afghanistan: Most spoke to SIGAR assuming remarks would not become public

FROM FRONT PAGE

"We were devoid of a fundamental understanding of Afghanistan — we didn't know what we were doing," Douglas Lute, a three-star Army general who served as the White House's Afghanistan War czar during the Bush and Obama administrations, told government interviewers in 2015. He added: "What are we trying to do here? We didn't have the foggiest notion of what we were undertaking."

"If the American people knew the magnitude of this dysfunction ... 2,400 lives lost," Lute added, blaming the deaths of U.S. military personnel on bureaucratic breakdowns among Congress, the Pentagon and the State Department. "Who will say this was in vain?"

Since 2001, more than 775,000 U.S. troops have deployed to Afghanistan, many repeatedly. Of those, 2,300 died there and 20,589 were wounded in action, according to Defense Department figures.

The interviews, through an extensive array of voices, bring into sharp relief the core failings of the war that persist to this day. They underscore how three presidents — George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump — and their military commanders have been unable to deliver on their promises to prevail in Afghanistan.

With most speaking on the assumption that their remarks would not become public, U.S. officials acknowledged that their warfighting strategies were fatally flawed and that Washington wasted enormous sums of money trying to remake Afghanistan into a modern nation.

The interviews also highlight the U.S. government's botched attempts to build a runway, corruption, curtail a competent Afghan army and police force, and put a dent in Afghanistan's thriving opium trade.

The U.S. government has not carried out a comprehensive accounting of how much it has spent on the war in Afghanistan, but the costs are staggering.

Since 2001, the Defense Department, State Department and



MATT MCCLAIN/The Washington Post

U.S. Army personnel board a plane for a deployment to Afghanistan from Fort Campbell, Ky., on Nov. 6, 2014. Since 2001, more than 775,000 U.S. troops have deployed to Afghanistan, many repeatedly.

‘Every data point was altered to present the best picture possible. Surveys, for instance, were totally unreliable but reinforced that everything we were doing was right and we became a self-licking ice cream cone.’

Bob Crowley

senior counterinsurgency adviser to U.S. military commanders in 2013 and 2014

U.S. Agency for International Development have spent or appropriated between \$934 billion and \$978 billion, according to an inflation-adjusted estimate calculated by Neta Crawford, a political science professor and co-director of the Costs of War Project at Brown University.

Those figures do not include money spent by other agencies such as the CIA and the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is responsible for medical care for wounded veterans.

"What did we get for this \$1 trillion effort? Was it worth \$1 trillion?" Jeffrey Eggers, a retired Navy SEAL and White House staffer for Bush and Obama, told government interviewers. He added, "After the killing of Osama bin Laden, I said that Osama was probably laughing in his watery grave considering how much we have spent on Afghanistan."

The documents also contradict a long chorus of public statements from U.S. presidents, military commanders and diplomats who

assured Americans year after year that they were making progress in Afghanistan and the war was worth fighting.

Several of those interviewed described explicit and sustained efforts by the U.S. government to deliberately mislead the public. They said it was common at military headquarters in Kabul — and at the White House — to distort statistics to make it appear the United States was winning the war when that was not the case.

"Every data point was altered to present the best picture possible," Bob Crowley, an Army colonel who served as a senior counterinsurgency adviser to U.S. military commanders in 2013 and 2014, told government interviewers. "Surveys, for instance, were totally unreliable but reinforced that everything we were doing was right and we became a self-licking ice cream cone."

John Sopko, the head of the federal agency that conducted the interviews, acknowledged to The Post that the documents show "the American people have constantly been led to."

The interviews are the byproduct of a project led by Sopko's agency, the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. Known as SIGAR, the agency was created by Congress in 2008 to investigate waste and fraud in the war zone.

In 2014, at Sopko's direction, SIGAR departed from its usual

mission of performing audits and launched a side venture. Titled "Lessons Learned," the \$11 million project was meant to diagnose policy failures in Afghanistan so the United States would not repeat the mistakes the next time it invaded a country or tried to rebuild a shattered one.

The Lessons Learned staff interviewed more than 600 people with firsthand experience in the war. Most were Americans, but SIGAR analysts also traveled to London, Brussels and Berlin to interview NATO allies. In addition, they interviewed about 20 Afghan officials, discussing reconstruction and development programs.

Drawing partly on the interviews, as well as other government records and statistics, SIGAR has published seven Lessons Learned reports since 2016 that highlight problems in Afghanistan and recommend changes to stabilize the country.

But the reports left out the harshest and most frank criticisms from the interviews.

The reports also omitted the names of more than 90 percent of the people who were interviewed for the project. While a few officials agreed to speak on the record to SIGAR, the agency said it promised anonymity to everyone else it interviewed to avoid controversy over politically sensitive matters.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, The Post began seeking Lessons Learned interview

records in August 2016. SIGAR refused, arguing that the documents were privileged and that the public had no right to see them.

The Post sued SIGAR in federal court twice to compel it to release the documents.

The agency eventually disclosed more than 2,000 pages of unpublished notes and transcripts from 428 of the interviews, as well as several audio recordings.

The documents identify 62 of the people who were interviewed, but SIGAR blacked out the names of 366 others. In legal briefs, the agency contended that those individuals should be seen as whistleblowers and informants who might face humiliation, harassment, retaliation or physical harm if their names became public.

By cross-referencing dates and other details from the documents, The Post independently identified 33 other people who were interviewed, including several former ambassadors, generals and White House officials.

The Post has asked a federal judge to force SIGAR to disclose the names of everyone else interviewed, arguing that the public has a right to know which officials criticized the war and asserted that the government had misled the American people. The Post also argued the officials were not whistleblowers or informants, because they were not interviewed as part of an investigation.

A decision by Judge Amy Berman Jackson of the U.S. District Court in Washington has been pending since late September.

The Post is publishing the documents now, instead of waiting for a final ruling, to inform the public while the Trump administration is negotiating with the Taliban and considering whether to withdraw the 13,000 U.S. troops who remain in Afghanistan.

Sopko, the inspector general, told The Post that he did not suppress the blistering criticisms and doubts about the war that officials raised in the Lessons Learned interviews. He said it took his office three years to release the records because he has a small staff and because other federal agencies had to review the documents to prevent government secrets from being disclosed.

"We didn't sit on it," he said. "We're firm believers in openness and transparency, but we got to follow the law. ... I think of any inspector general, I've probably been the most forthcoming on information."

The interview records are packed with tough judgments from people who shaped or carried out U.S. policy in Afghanistan.

"We don't invade poor countries to make them rich," James Dobbins, a former senior U.S. diplomat who served as a special envoy to Afghanistan under Bush and Obama, told government interviewers. "We don't invade authoritarian countries to make them democratic. We invade violent countries to make them peaceful, and we clearly failed in Afghanistan."



ROBERT A. REEDER/The Washington Post

Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, left, and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld address the media in March 2002, after two U.S. helicopters went down in Afghanistan.

WAR/MILITARY

4 rockets hit base near Baghdad airport

By SAMYA KULLAB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Four Katyusha rockets hit a military base near Baghdad International Airport early Monday, wounding at least six soldiers, Iraqi security officials said. It was the latest incident in a series of rocket attacks in recent weeks.

Iraqi security forces discovered a rocket launcher and some

defused rockets nearby after searching the area following the attack, a statement from Iraqi security forces said.

According to the security officials, the area targeted by the rockets is frequented by military advisers from the U.S.-led coalition. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

On Dec. 3, five rockets landed inside the Ain al-Asad airbase, a sprawling complex in the western Anbar desert that hosts U.S. forces, without causing any casualties and with little damage.

On at least two occasions last month in Baghdad, rockets landed in areas around the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq's government, causing no casualties or damages.

And near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, a barrage of Katyusha rockets targeted an Iraqi air base that houses American troops in early November. No members of the U.S.-led coalition were hurt.

Some hard-line Iraqi militias loyal to Iran have recently threatened to carry out attacks against Americans in the country. The U.S. maintains about 5,000 troops in Iraq.

American forces withdrew from Iraq in 2011 but returned in 2014 at the invitation of the government to help battle Islamic State after it seized vast areas in the north and west of the country, including Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city. The U.S.-led coalition provided crucial air support as Iraqi forces regrouped and drove ISIS out in a costly three-year campaign.



JAVAD ZARIF TWITTER ACCOUNT/AP

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, left, speaks with Iranian scientist Massoud Soleimani after making a prisoner swap with the U.S. on Saturday. Iran says it is ready for more exchanges.

Iran is ready for more prisoner swaps with US, not negotiations

By NASSER KARIMI
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran is ready for more prisoner swaps with the United States, the Cabinet spokesman said Monday even as he reiterated the Iranian leadership's stance that there will be no other negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

The remarks by the spokesman, Ali Rabiee, were the first after a prisoner exchange over the weekend saw Iran free a Chinese-American scholar from Princeton who had been held for three years on widely criticized espionage charges.

The scholar, graduate student Xiyue Wang, was freed in exchange for Iranian scientist Massoud Soleimani who had faced a federal trial in Georgia over charges he violated sanctions by trying to have biological material taken to Iran.

"We are ready to cooperate to return all Iranians unlawfully imprisoned in the U.S.," Rabiee told reporters at a briefing in Tehran. He said, however, that there will be no other negotiations with the U.S. besides this issue.

Rabiee said any further negoti-

ations would be possible through the so-called 5+1 framework — a reference to the five permanent U.N. Security Council members plus Germany — under the condition that the U.S. first lift sanctions on Iran.

"The ball is in the U.S. court," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet later Monday. He said while attending a regional conference in Istanbul, Turkey, that Iran was "fully ready for comprehensive prisoner exchange."

Saturday's exchange was negotiated indirectly and took place in Switzerland, which looks after U.S. interests in Iran as Tehran and Washington have no diplomatic ties. The swap raised hopes of other similar actions and was seen as a rare diplomatic breakthrough between Tehran and Washington after months of tensions. But it was unclear if it would have any effect on Iran-U.S. relations.

Crushing U.S. sanctions on Iran blocking it from selling crude oil abroad remain in place, part of President Donald Trump's maximum pressure campaign imposed following his unilateral

withdraw from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers last year. Those sanctions in part fueled the anger seen in nationwide protests last month that Iranian security forces violently put down.

Amnesty International says that over 200 people were killed in the crackdown though Iran has offered no death toll or any other figures related to the unrest.

There are other Western detainees from the U.S. and elsewhere who remain held in Iran and who could be used as bargaining chips for future negotiations.

Others held in Iran include U.S. Navy veteran Michael White, who is serving a 10-year espionage sentence, as well as environmentalist Morad Tahbaz, an Iranian with U.S. and British citizenship also initially sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Also in Iran are Baquer Namazi, 83, and his son, Siamak Namazi, dual Iranian-American nationals facing 10-year sentences after they were convicted of collaborating with a hostile power. Baquer Namazi now is on a prison furlough. However, the Namazis say he remains unable to leave Iran.

Wis. Guard leader to make changes after assault probe

By TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — The head of the Wisconsin National Guard said Monday that he intends to implement all recommendations made following an investigation into multiple reports of sexual assault and harassment.

Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar was briefed Saturday on the probe by the National Guard Bureau's Office of Complex Investigations.

"We intend to implement all of the recommendations," Dunbar said.

The Guard has been shaken by recent allegations of officers brushing off sexual assault complaints and retaliating against victims for reporting incidents. Gov. Tony Evers and Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin requested the federal investigation, the results of which were presented to Dunbar on Saturday. Evers got the report Nov. 25.

The allegations came to light in November 2018 when Master Sgt. Jay Ellis told Baldwin about half a dozen incidents of sexual assault or harassment within his 115th Fighter Wing security squadron that officers had done little to address. Ellis wrote in a letter to Baldwin that the culture in his unit treats sexual misconduct as "no big deal."

That letter spurred a U.S. Air Force investigation that's still underway.

State Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, a Republican who is running for Congress in 2020, asked Dunbar in February for a top-to-bottom review of Guard protocols for handling sexual assault complaints. Dunbar refused to launch such a probe, instead outlining the protocols in a letter to Fitzgerald and stress-



DINESH RAMDE/AP

Wisconsin National Guard Maj. Gen. Don Dunbar says he plans to implement recommendations that came after an investigation of sexual misconduct in the state Guard.

ing that the Guard has "zero tolerance" for sexual misconduct.

Fitzgerald was less than pleased with that response and questioned whether the Guard follows its own policies.

Evers and Baldwin asked the National Guard Bureau in Washington to launch the review in March. The bureau complied, launching a review through its Office of Complex Investigations.

Evers said he received a briefing on the findings on Nov. 25 but wanted to discuss the report with Dunbar before releasing it to the public. Evers planned to brief Fitzgerald and other legislative leaders Monday on the findings.

Ellis, the whistleblower who brought the sexual assault complaints to light, alleged in May that his commanders were trying to discharge him on trumped-up medical issues so he would be denied retirement benefits. Dunbar launched an investigation into Ellis' allegations that is still ongoing.

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NATION

F-117 becomes part of Reagan museum

Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — An exhibit displaying the first operational stealth fighter opened at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

The F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighter was unveiled during the Reagan National Defense Forum at the museum in Simi Valley on Saturday, the Los Angeles Daily News reported.

The stealth fighter joins an F-14 fighter as part of a permanent display about Reagan's efforts to strengthen the nation's defenses.

The aircraft, given tail number 803 and nicknamed "Unexpected Guest," entered service in May 1984 and flew 78 missions, more than all other F-117s combined, officials said.

The F-117 Nighthawk was designed to evade radar as a sub-sonic aircraft that used radar-absorbing material. The aircraft's angular shape was designed to reflect radar waves. It was painted black to make it more difficult to see against the sky while flying precision strikes at night, officials said.

Lockheed Martin produced 59 operational F-117s and five developmental prototypes between

1981 and 2008, but the aircraft was not publicly acknowledged until 1988.

It was born in the aerospace company's so-called Skunk Works in Burbank, Calif.

The aircraft came to the museum as a joint project between the Reagan Foundation & Institute and Lockheed Martin Skunk Works. Lockheed spent \$1 million to restore the airplane and the foundation spent \$200,000 to install it as part of the library's Peace Through Strength exhibit, officials said.

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Scott Stimpert, who attended the unveiling, flew 500 hours in the fighter between 1987 and 1991.

He was assigned to fly the F-117 while it was still a secret aircraft and saw the stealth fighter's full potential in January 1991 over Iraq during the Gulf War, he said.

"I know we'd seen tests where it worked but I hoped it really would," Stimpert said. "The first real baptism by fire was the opening night of the Gulf War over Baghdad."

"We flew 1,300 total sorties (missions) and not one was struck."



GRETCHEN WENNER, THE VENTURA (CALIF.) COUNTY STAR/AP

Officials gather on Saturday to launch the F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighter exhibit at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Museum in Simi Valley, Calif. The stealth fighter joins an F-14 fighter as part of a permanent display at the Reagan museum.



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NATION

Partisan clash kicks off hearing on impeachment

By LISA MASCARO
AND MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A House impeachment hearing quickly fell into partisan fighting Monday as lawmakers formally received the investigative findings against President Donald Trump to lay out the case for the charges against him.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler was immediately interrupted by a protester shouting "We voted for Donald Trump!" as the panel was gavelled open. The protester was escorted from the House hearing room by Capitol Police.

Nadler pressed ahead with opening remarks saying, "President Trump put himself before country."

The committee is to vote soon, possibly this week, on two or more charges of abuse of power, bribery and obstruction against the Republican president. Democrats say Trump's push to have Ukraine investigate rival Joe Biden while at the same time withholding U.S. military aid ran counter to U.S. policy and benefited Russia.

The top Republican on the panel, Rep. Doug Collins, of Georgia, derided the hearing as a "sham" and said Democrats are racing to jam impeachment through on a "clock and a calendar" ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

"For anyone not to think this was not a baked deal is not being honest with themselves," Collins

said. "They can't get over the fact that Donald Trump is the president of the United States and they don't have a candidate that can beat him."

The hearing sets off a pivotal week as Democrats march toward a full House vote expected by Christmas. In drafting the articles of impeachment, Speaker Nancy Pelosi is facing a legal and political challenge of balancing the views of her majority while hitting the Constitution's bar of "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors."

Nadler said the case against Trump is clear after "multiple officials testified that the president's demand for an investigation into his rivals was a part of his personal, political agenda, and not related to the foreign policy objectives of the United States."

"The integrity of our next election is at stake."

Trump spent the weekend tweeting against the proceedings. He and his allies acknowledge he likely will be impeached in the Democratic-controlled House, but they also expect acquittal next year in the Senate, where Republicans have the majority. Trump's team is turning attention elsewhere, including Monday's release of a long-awaited Justice Department report into the 2016 Russia investigation.

"Impeachment Hearing Hoax," Trump tweeted Sunday.

In advance of the hearing, Nadler sent a letter to the White House late Sunday officially forwarding the House Intelligence



A protester speaks out as the House Judiciary Committee begins its hearing on investigative findings in the impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump on Monday.

committee's report, along with additional evidence supporting impeachment. It also invited White House officials to review sensitive materials in a classified setting.

The White House is refusing to participate in the process it calls a sham, and Collins asked to postpone the hearing, criticizing Democrats for moving too swiftly. One legal scholar testified last week it would be the quickest impeachment in modern history.

"This is just how desperate they are — desperately focused on impeaching this president," said Collins who accused the Democrats of unleashing thousands of pages of documents his side had no time to review before Monday's session.

"This is a show. This is a farce. This is whatever you want to call it. The American people are having their tax dollars wasted on this impeachment of this president," Collins said.

Trump, meanwhile, is heading out for campaign rallies shifting attention away from the House.

Court leaves Kentucky's ultrasound law in place

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday left in place a Kentucky law requiring doctors to perform ultrasounds and show fetal images to patients before abortions.

The justices did not comment in refusing to review an appeals court ruling that upheld the law.

The American Civil Liberties Union had challenged the law on behalf of Kentucky's lone remaining abortion clinic. The ACLU argued that "display and describe" ultrasound laws violate physicians' speech rights under the First Amendment.

The federal appeals court in Cincinnati upheld the Kentucky law, but its sister court in Richmond, Va., struck down a similar measure in North Carolina.

Doctors' speech also has been an issue in nonabortion cases. The federal appeals court in Atlanta struck down parts of a 2011 Florida law that sought to prohibit doctors from talking about gun safety with their patients. Under the law, doctors faced fines and the possible loss of their medical licenses for discussing guns with patients.

In Kentucky, doctors must describe the ultrasound in detail while the pregnant woman listens to the fetal heartbeat. Women can avert their eyes and cover their ears to avoid hearing the description or the fetal heartbeat. Doctors failing to comply face fines and can be referred to the state's medical licensing board.

The law was passed in 2017 and was signed by the state's anti-abortion governor, Republican Matt Bevin.

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, 92, dies

By PAUL WISEMAN
AND CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

Paul Volcker, the former Federal Reserve chairman who in the early 1980s raised interest rates to historic highs and triggered a recession as the price of quashing double-digit inflation, died, according to his office.

He was 92. Volcker took charge of the Fed in August 1979, when the U.S. economy was slipping into the grip of runaway inflation. Consumer prices skyrocketed 13% in 1979 and then by the same amount again in 1980.

Volcker worked relentlessly to bring prices under control. He pushed the Fed's benchmark interest rate from 11% to a record 20% by late 1980 to try to slow the economy's growth and shrink inflation.

Those high interest rates made it so expensive for people and companies to borrow that the economy weakened steadily. By January 1980, a recession had begun.

It lasted six months. But then a deeper and more painful downturn took hold in July 1981. It endured for 18 months and sent unemployment

up to 10.8% in November and December 1982, the highest level since the Great Depression. In the midst of it, Volcker was vilified by the public. Homebuilders put postage stamps on bricks and on two-by-four wooden planks and mailed them to the Fed to protest how super-high interest rates had wrecked their businesses. Auto dealers, stuck with lots full of unsold cars, did the same with car keys. Angry farmers, struggling with high debts, drove their tractors to Washington and blocked the Fed's headquarters.

But the pain eventually paid off. Inflation receded. Once it did, Volcker's Fed began lowering interest rates. The economy bounced back strongly enough for President Ronald Reagan to declare the arrival of "Morning in America" on this way to a landslide victory in the 1984 presidential election. Volcker left the Fed on Aug. 11, 1987, succeeded by Alan Greenspan.

The Volcker-led victory over inflation is widely credited with beginning what economists call the "Great Moderation" — more than two decades of mostly steady economic growth, relatively low

unemployment and modest price increases. The Great Moderation ended with the Great Recession of 2007-09. Volcker had spent most of his career in the public sector — at the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the Fed board in Washington.

Six-foot-seven and perpetually rumped, Volcker favored cheap cigars and bad suits. John Connally, a slick Texan who was Volcker's boss at the Treasury in the early 1970s, once threatened to fire him if he didn't get a haircut and improve his wardrobe.

After leaving the Fed, Volcker took on assignments as a troubleshooter. He ran a commission to investigate what Swiss banks did with the assets of Holocaust victims during and after World War II. The United Nations assigned him to look into allegations of

corruption in a U.N. program to provide food aid to Iraq. After the financial crisis of 2008, President Barack Obama recruited him as an economic adviser. Volcker pressed for restrictions on banks' ability to trade in financial markets with their own money, rather than their clients, and to invest in private equity and hedge funds.

The regulations, known as the "Volcker Rule," were included in a far-reaching financial overhaul bill Congress passed in 2010. Volcker had little sympathy for big banks in the wake of the financial crisis, which required a taxpayer bailout of Wall Street firms. He dismissed claims that deregulated financial institutions deserved credit for coming up with innovative products and services.

The only useful financial innovation he'd seen in years, he said, was the ATM.



Volcker

NATION

Shooting mishaps raise doubts over guns in schools

By MARTHA BELLISLE
Associated Press

SEATTLE — As the country looks for ways to deal with mass shootings at schools, some have responded by saying more people should carry guns, including teachers.

"The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun," President Donald Trump told the National Rifle Association convention in April. More states are allowing teachers to carry guns, he said, and "who better to protect our children than our teachers, who love them."

But a close look at unintentional shootings by law enforcement of officers, including at schools, raises doubts about whether more guns would help keep students safe.

An Associated Press investigation has found accidental shootings occur at law enforcement agencies large and small across the United States every year. The examination of public records and media reports documented 1,422 unintentional shootings by officers at 258 agencies since 2012.

Twenty-two occurred at schools or college campuses.

At least nine states have passed laws allowing employees to carry firearms at K-12 school grounds, according to the National School

Boards Association. Nineteen states allow anyone with permission from a school authority to be armed at schools, the association said.

Experts say anybody carrying guns, including teachers, needs ongoing, intensive training to be able to handle their firearms proficiently and respond appropriately in stressful settings — and many law enforcement officers don't even get that.

"The idea that anybody can go to Joe Smith's School of Shooting for a day or a week and become proficient at shooting a handgun in a life and death situation is a little bit absurd," said Doug Tangen, firearms program manager at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, the state police academy.

The AP's investigation found six accidental shootings that involved officers responding to reports of active shooters.

In 2016, for example, local, state and federal officers rushed to Alpine High School in the small town of Alpine, Texas, when a call came in about two shooters inside.

A half-dozen heavily armed officers and agents headed toward the cafeteria and then down the hallway toward classroom No. 24, thinking the shooter might be inside.



TEXAS RANGERS/AP

A Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent was wounded during a response to a Alpine, Texas school in Sept. 8, 2016, after a gun carried by U.S. Marshal Douglas Mullens, upper right, accidentally discharged. Concerns over unintentional shootings leave many people wary of allowing guns to be carried in schools and elsewhere.

Just as Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Jon Dangle touched the doorknob, a shot rang out, and he fell to the floor. The other officers grabbed him by his bulletproof vest and dragged him to safety.

No one knew where the shot came from or who fired it, Dangle said.

"We thought the shooter was in that classroom," which still contained a teacher and students, he told the AP. "If they (the other agents) had opened fire, more would be dead."

U.S. Marshal Douglas Mullens eventually admitted he had accidentally discharged his weapon. He was carrying a ballistic shield in one hand and fumbling with a handgun in the other when it went off, according to the Texas Rangers, who investigated the

shooting.

Dangle suffered a shattered tibia and torn muscles and nerves. He was out of work for 15 months.

Other accidental shootings at schools occurred while officers chased or arrested suspects, taught gun safety classes or attended school events while off-duty, the AP found. Some injured officers, teachers or students.

Accidental shootings can occur when an officer is flush with adrenaline, gets startled or simply loses his balance. Ways to avoid them include following firearms safety rules and training regularly and in settings that mirror real life, experts say.

Steven Karnazes, president of Ventura, Calif.-based Advanced Tactical Training Institute, trains people in schools and churches to

prepare for armed attacks. After taking clients through classroom safety sessions, Karnazes teaches firearm handling by "making things as realistic as we can."

"If you are a person at a church or school and you want to carry a firearm, that commitment comes with a lot of responsibility," he said. "You have to be a lifelong student and continue to train."

National advocacy group Teach Plus in 2018 surveyed more than 1,200 teachers about being armed at schools, and 80% said they were strongly opposed.

Also last year, the National Education Association, the country's largest teachers union, asked roughly 1,000 members if they would be willing to carry a gun in school, even with training, and 82% said no.

Ark. police search for motive in ambush that killed officer

Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Investigators are trying to determine why a man "ambushed and executed" a city police officer who was sitting in his patrol car outside police headquarters in a college town in northwest Arkansas.

The Saturday death of Fayetteville Police Officer Stephen Carr was one of three killings of police officers nationwide in a two-day period.

Carr, 27, was a patrol officer in Fayetteville's Dickson Street

entertainment district, an area popular with students at the nearby University of Arkansas, police said. Fayetteville Police Chief Mike Reynolds said Sunday that Carr was sitting in his patrol car Saturday night when a man approached the vehicle and shot him several times at point-blank range.

Two officers who were inside the police station heard the gunfire, ran outside and opened fire on the suspect, killing him, police said. Authorities on Sunday iden-

tified the suspect as London Phillips, 35, of Fayetteville.

The officers who opened fire on Phillips — identified Sunday as Cpl. Seay Floyd and Ofc. Natalie Euces — are on paid leave pending an internal investigation, police said.

Police said they don't know why Phillips shot Carr but they believe Phillips set out to kill a police officer.

"All I know is that this was a cowardly act. I have no information that leads me to believe that

he targeted this officer specifically. He was looking for an officer to kill," Reynolds said during a news conference Sunday.

Reynolds said Phillips used a 9 mm Taurus pistol and had two boxes of ammunition with him.

Fayetteville police had a "brief history" with Phillips, Reynolds said. Police received a call in December 2018 about Phillips impersonating a police officer, he said. In April, Phillips pawned a gun at a local pawn shop. Reynolds said the owner of the shop would not

return the gun because Phillips had a medical marijuana card, which disqualifies someone from possessing a gun in Arkansas.

Fayetteville police have asked the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the FBI to investigate. A spokeswoman for the sheriff's office declined to release details of the investigation Sunday.

The fatal Arkansas shooting followed the shooting death of a Houston police officer Saturday night and the killing of an Alabama police officer on Friday.

Prison officials strip searched girl, 8, before allowing her to see father

Associated Press

DILLWYN, Va. — Prison officials in Virginia singled out an 8-year-old girl and strip searched her before allowing her to visit her father, in a move authorities say was against department protocol.

The father's girlfriend accompanied the child to Buckingham Correctional Center in Dillwyn just before Thanksgiving, The Virginian-Pilot reported.

Diamond Peerman says she and the girl were circled by a Virginia Department of Corrections dog trained to sniff out contraband. Peerman was singled out by the dog and told by prison officials that both she and the girl had to be searched. Peerman says both she and the girl removed all their clothes and were searched, and that they were then allowed a visit, but only through glass.

DOC policy states that a legal parent or guardian must consent to a minor being searched. Peerman, the father's girlfriend, says she told guards that she wasn't the 8-year-old's legal guardian and that they told her she had to sign the consent form anyway.

The staff member who approved the search didn't have that authority, according to DOC Director of Communications

Lisa Kinney. She said immediate disciplinary action against the person responsible will be taken.

The girl's mother told the newspaper that her daughter already suffered from bipolar disorder, depression and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

The girl's mother says the 8-year-old misses her dad but won't be visiting him anymore because of the incident.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

NYC set to require 'bird-friendly' glass

NY NEW YORK — New York City lawmakers are poised to adopt legislation requiring "bird-friendly" glass on all new construction in an effort to cut down on the tens of thousands of birds who die flying into the city's buildings every year.

New York will be the largest city in the nation to require glass that is visible to birds if the measure passes.

Groups that monitor bird populations said they are thrilled at the prospect of the legislation's adoption in New York City.

New York City Audubon estimates that 90,000 to 230,000 birds from hawks to hummingbirds are killed every year from flying into New York City buildings.

Manure spill that killed fish draws fine

WA BELLINGHAM — U.S. officials have fined a northwestern Washington farmer \$6,750 after a manure spill killed threatened steelhead.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration last week announced the fine against Harold Carbee, of Bellingham.

Officials said the hose broke in May and spilled manure into Anderson Creek.

The spill killed more than 300 fish, including 89 young steelheads protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Man faces prison for defying 'red flag' law

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — A Florida man faces up to five years in prison for refusing to surrender his weapons to authorities under the state's "red flag" law.

It took a Broward County jury less than an hour to find Jeron Smith, 33, guilty, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported.

The law went into effect following last year's Parkland high school shooting.

Smith refused to surrender his weapons to law enforcement officials in March 2018 following an incident in which Smith was accused of shooting at a car during an argument, authorities said.

Woman: Drugs found in car were birthday gift

NE KEARNEY — Two people from Minnesota face felony drug charges after a traffic stop in Nebraska turned up more than 2 pounds of marijuana, several packages of THC concentrate wax, vape pen cartridges and concentrated marijuana edibles.

The Nebraska State Patrol said a woman in the car told them all the drugs were bought in Colorado as a 21st birthday present to her.

The drugs were found Dec. 1 when the couple's vehicle was stopped for speeding, the Kearney Hub reported. The vehicle was searched after a trooper who said it smelled a strong odor of marijuana.



PHOTOS BY DAVID TULIS/AP



Birthday flight

Above: Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Charles McGee, a Tuskegee Airman and a decorated veteran of three wars, flies a Cirrus SF50 Vision Jet with assistance from pilot Boni Caldeira during a flight from Frederick, Md., to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to help celebrate McGee's 100th birthday on Friday. McGee's birthday was Saturday. Left: McGee receives a send-off after visiting with 436 Aerial Port Squadron personnel at Dover.

A 32-year-old man and the 21-year-old woman, both of Mankato, Minn., were arrested on suspicion of distribution and possession of more than a pound of marijuana, possession of concentrated cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Wrong-way RV gets stuck in drive-thru

WA KENNEWICK — A woman driving a large RV entered a fast-food drive-thru the wrong way and got stuck, police in eastern Washington said.

Kennewick police said Anastacia Eitzwiler, 56, was taken into custody on suspicion of driving under the influence early Friday.

The large RV became wedged against the corner of a Taco Bell restaurant after getting stuck making a sharp right turn on the narrow drive-thru.

Proposal to allow dogs onto restaurant patios

DE DOVER — A state agency in Delaware is proposing a change in regulations that would allow people to bring their dogs onto restaurant patios and decks.

The Delaware State News reported Thursday that the proposed change follows an uproar from some over the state stepping up enforcement of a policy that prohibits most dogs from food

THE CENSUS

200

The number of fully bedecked Santas who took a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season to hit the slopes for charity in Maine. A ski resort hosted the 20th annual "Skiing Santas" event Sunday for the Sunday River Community Fund, a local charity. The jolly of elves on skis and snowboards participated in full holiday garb, including a white beard, red hat and red outfit. The event produced a red blur of skiers and snowboarders dashing through the snow, trying to make it downhill without falling or crashing into each other.

establishments. The Division of Public Health increased enforcement in August after a weekly paper published an article on pet-friendly eateries. The agency said animals can pose a risk to public health.

3 puppies abandoned in mountains rescued

UT SALT LAKE CITY — Search and rescue workers and wildlife officers in northern Utah rescued three Great Pyrenees puppies abandoned in frigid temperatures in the mountains, authorities said.

Snowmobilers near Monte Cristo to found the puppies Dec. 1 hiding in an animal carcass, Weber County search and rescue crew members and the state Division of Wildlife Resources said.

"They were little frozen ice balls; they had ice frozen in their fur," snowmobiler Kat Perry told KUTV-TV. "They were eating anything they could find."

Perry and Corey Holt found a female Great Pyrenees wandering in the area Nov. 30 and, after failed attempts to capture her, they went back the next day and found the puppies, they said.

Wreaths headed for National Cemetery

ME HARRINGTON — Thousands of Maine-made wreaths are starting the long journey to Arlington National Cemetery.

A caravan of trucks loaded with wreaths departed Saturday from a high school parking lot in Harrington, Mona Gunn, the national president of American Gold Star Mothers Inc., will lead the caravan as grand marshal. Her son died in a terrorist attack on the USS Cole.

About 250,000 wreaths on 10 tractor-trailers are headed to the cemetery in Arlington, Va., where they will be placed on headstones this Saturday.

Woman hurt jumping from moving vehicle

MA BOSTON — A woman was seriously injured when she seems to have exited through a passenger-side window of a moving vehicle on a Massachusetts highway early Sunday, according to Massachusetts State Police.

The driver of the car, Joseph Monsini, 25, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

State Police said the woman, a 26-year-old Taunton, Mass., resident, was found by police in the roadway with serious injuries. She is expected to survive.

Police: Weapons, drugs thrown from vehicle

NC LUMBERTON — Police in North Carolina say two people threw firearms, heroin and cocaine from a vehicle as they fled authorities.

The Robeson County Sheriff's Office said Sunday that Antreal M. Henderson and Corintia Cooper, both 24, had been arrested and were facing multiple charges after fleeing a traffic stop.

Police said a deputy pulled over the vehicle Henderson was driving after he failed to stop at an intersection. Police said Henderson sped away as a deputy approach the vehicle but the pair were later apprehended.

From wire reports

FACES



AP

Juice WRLD won top new artist at the Billboard Music Awards on May 1 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Rising rapper Juice WRLD dies at age 21

Associated Press

Juice WRLD, who launched his career on SoundCloud before becoming a streaming juggernaut and rose to the top of the charts with the Sting-sampled hit "Lucid Dreams," died Sunday after a "medical emergency" at Chicago's Midway International Airport.

The rapper, whose legal name was Jarad A. Higgins, was 21. Authorities had not released details about his cause of death.

He was pronounced dead at a hospital around 3:15 a.m. and taken to the Cook County medical examiner's office several hours later, according to office spokeswoman Natalia Derevyanny, who said an autopsy would take place Monday.

Juice WRLD, who was named top new artist at the Billboard Music Awards in May, lived in the Chicago suburb of Homewood where he stood out as a musician early on. He turned 21 days earlier, and was only two years out of high school.

Like a good number of young hip-hop performers, Juice WRLD blended rapping and singing on his songs, sometimes mumbling words and focusing more on melody. His hit "Lucid Dreams," which heavily samples Sting's 1993 song "Shape of My Heart," was a six-times platinum success and reached No. 2 on the all-genre Hot 100 chart. It reached No. 1 on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs and Hot Rap Songs charts. "I was very impressed by what he put on top of (my version)," Sting told The Associated Press this year. "It's a really good song."

Big Bird puppeteer dies

Carolyn Spinney, who gave Big Bird his warmth and Oscar the Grouch his growl for nearly 50 years on "Sesame Street," died Sunday at the age of 85 at his home in Connecticut, according to the Sesame Workshop. The legendary puppeteer lived for some time with dystonia, which causes involuntary muscle contractions, the Sesame Workshop said in a statement. Spinney voiced and operated the two major Muppets from their inception in 1969 when he was 36, and performed them almost exclusively into his 80s on the PBS kids' television show that later moved to HBO.

Netflix dominates Golden Globe noms

Associated Press

With four films up for best picture, four series nominated for the top television awards and 34 total nominations, Netflix dominated the 77th Golden Globe nominations on Monday.

Noah Baumbach's divorce portrait "Marriage Story" led all films with six nominations including best picture, drama and acting nods for its two leads, Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson, in nominations announced by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association in Beverly Hills, Calif. "Marriage Story," which landed on Netflix Dec. 6 after a three-week run in theaters, also earned nods for Baumbach's script, Laura Dern's supporting performance and Randy Newman's score. The only notable category it missed on was Baumbach for best director.

The other Netflix films landed best picture nods, chief among them Martin Scorsese's mob epic "The Irishman," which landed five nominations including best drama picture, best director for Scorsese and supporting acting nods for Al Pacino and Joe Pesci. Surprisingly left out was its lead, Robert De Niro.

Quentin Tarantino's 1960s Los Angeles fable "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" also scored five nominations, including best film, comedy or musical and nods for Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio. Tarantino is also up for best director.

Netflix flexed its muscles across all categories, just as it is girding for battle with a host of new streaming services. Two other films garnered best picture nods: the Vatican bromance "The Two Papes" in the drama category, and the Eddie Murphy-led "Dolemite Is My Name" in the comedy category.

Two Netflix series tied HBO's "Chernobyl" with the most nominations in the TV side: "The Crown" and "Unbelievable." All scored four nods.

Film nominees

Drama
"The Irishman," "Marriage Story," "1917," "Joker," "The Two Papes"

Actress, drama

Cynthia Erivo, "Harriet"; Scarlett Johansson, "Marriage Story"; Saoirse Ronan, "Little Women"; Charlize Theron, "Bombshell"; Renee Zellweger, "Judy"

Actor, drama

Christian Bale, "Ford v Ferrari"; Antonio Banderas, "Pain and Glory"; Adam Driver, "Marriage Story"; Joaquin Phoenix, "Joker"; Jonathan Pryce, "The Two Papes"

Comedy or musical

"Dolemite Is My Name," "Jojo Rabbit," "Knives Out," "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," "Rocketman"

Actress, comedy or musical

Akwafina, "The Farewell"; Ana de Armas, "Knives Out"; Beanie Feldstein, "Booksmart"; Emma Thompson, "Late Night"; Cate Blanchett, "Where'd You Go, Bernadette"

Actor, comedy or musical

Daniel Craig, "Knives Out"; Roman Griffin Davis, "Jojo Rabbit"; Leonardo DiCaprio, "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"; Taron Egerton, "Rocketman"; Eddie Murphy, "Dolemite Is My Name"

Animated

"Frozen 2," "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World," "The Lion King," "Missing Link," "Toy Story 4"

Foreign language

"The Farewell," "Les Misérables," "Pain and Glory," "Parasite"

Supporting actress

Kathy Bates, "Richard Jewell"; Annette Bening, "The Report"; Laura Dern, "Marriage Story"; Jennifer Lopez, "Hustlers"; Margot Robbie, "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"

Supporting actor

Tom Hanks, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"; Anthony Hopkins, "The Two Papes"; Al Pacino, "The Irishman"; Joe Pesci, "The Irishman"; Brad Pitt, "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"

Director

Bong Joon Ho, "Parasite"; Sam Mendes, "1917"; Todd Phillips, "Joker"; Martin Scorsese, "The Irishman"; Quentin Tarantino, "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"

Screenplay

Noah Baumbach, "Marriage Story"; Bong Joon Ho, Han Jin Wo, "Parasite"; Aaron McCarter, "The Two Papes"; Quentin Tarantino, "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood"; Steven Zaillian, "The Irishman"

Original score

Alexandre Desplat, "Little Women"; Hildur Guðnadóttir, "Joker"; Randy Newman, "Marriage Story"; Thomas Newman, "1917"; Daniel Pemberton, "Motherless Brooklyn"

Best original song

"Beautiful Ghosts" from "Cats," music and lyrics by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Taylor Swift, "I'm Gonna Love Me Again" from "Rocketman," music by Elton John, lyrics by Bernie Taupin; "Into the Unknown" from "Frozen 2," music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Robert Lopez; "Spirit" from "The Lion King," music and lyrics by Timothy McKenzie, Ilya Salazar; "Be Yourself" from "Harriet," music and lyrics by Joshua Brian Campbell, Cynthia Erivo

Television nominees

Drama

"Big Little Lies," "The Crown," "The Morning Show," "Succession"

Actress in a drama series

Jennifer Aniston, "The Morning Show"; Olivia Colman, "The Crown"; Jodie Comer, "Killing Eve"; Nicole Kidman, "Big Little Lies"; Reese Witherspoon, "The Morning Show"

Actor in a drama series

Brian Cox, "The Crown"; Keith Harrington, "Game of Thrones"; Daniel Mays, "Mr. Robot"; Piers Morgan, "The Crown"; Billy Porter, "Pose"

Comedy or musical series

"Barry," "Fleabag," "The Kominsky Method," "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," "The Politician"

Actress in a comedy or musical series

Christina Applegate, "Dead to Me"; Rachel Brosnahan, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"; Kristen Dunst, "On Becoming a God in Central Florida"; Natasha Lyonne, "Russian Doll"; Phoebe Waller-Bridge, "Fleabag"

Actor in a comedy or musical series

Ben Platt, "The Politician"; Michael Douglas, "The Kominsky Method"; Bill Hader, "Barry"; Paul Rudd, "Living with Yourself"; Ramo Youssef, "Ramy"

Limited series or movie

"Catch-22," "Chernobyl," "Fosse/Verdon"; "The Loudest Voice," "Unbelievable"

Actress in a limited series or movie

Christina Applegate, "Catch-22"; Sacha Baron Cohen, "The Spy"; Russell Crowe, "The Loudest Voice"; Jared Harris, "Chernobyl"; Sam Rockwell, "Fosse/Verdon"

Supporting actress in series, limited series or movie

Patricia Arquette, "The Act"; Helena Bonham Carter, "The Crown"; Toni Collette, "Unbelievable"; Meryl Streep, "Big Little Lies"; Emily Watson, "Chernobyl"

Supporting actor in a series, limited series or movie

Alan Arkin, "The Kominsky Method"; Kieran Culkin, "Succession"; Andrew Scott, "Fleabag"; Stellan Skarsgård, "Chernobyl"; Henry Winkler, "Barry"

From The Associated Press

Ronstadt, 'Sesame Street' receive Kennedy Center Honors

Associated Press

Actress Sally Field, singer Linda Ronstadt and the disco-funk band Earth, Wind & Fire shared the spotlight Sunday night as part of the latest group of recipients of the Kennedy Center Honors for lifetime achievements in the arts.

Also in this year's class were conductor Michael Tilson Thomas and long-running children's TV show "Sesame Street."

Sunday's event featured a genuinely uneven event for the Kennedy Center as Big Bird walked the red carpet along with fellow "Sesame Street" characters Bert and Ernie, Abby and Cookie Monster, accompanied by their respective humans.

The massive yellow avian's appearance held a particular resonance as Carol Spinney, Big Bird's original puppeteer, died earlier Sunday at age 85.

"I'm heartbroken that this happened on this particular day," said Sonia Manzano, who played Maria for decades on "Sesame Street." "But I'm glad we're all together."

As she entered the building, Field, who has won two Academy Awards and three Emmys, reflected on the unique nature of the Kennedy Center Honors meditation.

"It's not about one performance. It's not about being the flavor of the month," she said. "It recognizes artists whose body of work has resonated over the years."



Sally Field

'M*A*S*H' actor Auberjonois dies at 79

Rene Auberjonois, a prolific actor best known for his roles on the television shows "Benson" and "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" and his part in the 1970 film "M*A*S*H" playing Father Mulhally, has died. He was 79. The actor died Sunday at his home in Los Angeles of metastatic lung cancer, his son Remy Auberjonois told The Associated Press. Rene Auberjonois worked constantly as a character actor in several golden ages, from the dynamic theater of the 1960s to the cinema renaissance of the 1970s to the prime period of network television in the 1980s and '90s.

'Frozen 2' again leads box office

"Frozen 2" blanketed multiplexes for the third successive weekend, continuing its reign at No. 1 with \$34.7 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Walt Disney Co. animated sequel has already grossed \$919.7 million worldwide. "Knives Out" (\$14.2 million), "Ford v Ferrari" (\$6.5 million), "Queen & Slim" (\$6.5 million) and "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" (\$5.2 million) rounded out the top 5. The week's only new wide release, "Playmobil: The Movie," flopped with just \$668,000 in 2,337 venues.

From The Associated Press

WORLD

Paris summit aims to find way to end Ukraine conflict

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
AND YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

PARIS — A long-awaited summit in Paris on Monday aimed to find a way to end the war in eastern Ukraine, a conflict that after five major and 14,000 lives lost has emboldened the Kremlin and reshaped European geopolitics.

The leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France were holding a series of meetings at the Elysee presidential palace to try to revive a 2015 peace deal that's been largely ignored. In the years since Ukrainian soldiers and Russia-backed separatists have continued to exchange fire across World War I-style trenches along a front line that slices through eastern Ukraine.

A major breakthrough at the summit is unlikely, and Ukrainian protesters in Kyiv are hearing pressure on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy not to surrender too much to Russian President Vladimir Putin at their first face-to-face meeting.

Whatever happens, the summit is the biggest test yet for Zelenskyy, a comic actor and political novice who won the presidency this year in a landslide — partly on promises to end the war.

While Zelenskyy still enjoys broad public support, he has been embarrassed by the scandal around his discussions with President Donald Trump that unleashed an impeachment inquiry. The U.S. is an important military backer for Ukraine, which is hugely out-gunned by Russia.

Some Ukrainians fear Zelenskyy will be out-manuevered by Putin on Monday's meeting. Around 100 opposition activists set up protest tents outside government buildings Monday in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv. Activists were offering free food in the tents and building a stage in front of Zelenskyy's office, with banners reading "No to capitulation!"

"Russia started the war, and any negotiations with the aggressor elicit our suspicion and vigilance, especially when we're being forced into peace on Russian terms," one protester, student Igor Derbunov, 21, told The Associated Press.

In front of the French presidential palace Monday, two protesters from the feminist group Femen, which originated in Ukraine, bared their breasts and shouted "Stop Putin Now!" They were quickly whisked away.

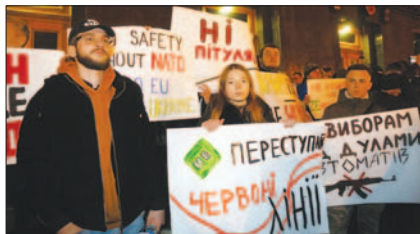
Russia wants to use the summit to increase pressure on Zelenskyy to fulfill the 2015 Minsk peace accord, which gives the rebel-held regions more autonomy in exchange for ending the fighting.

Zelenskyy wants to tweak the timeline laid out in the Minsk accord, which calls for Ukraine to be able to regain control of its border with Russia only after local elections are held in the separatist regions and the regions receive autonomous status. Zelenskyy says Ukraine must get control of its border first before local elections are held.

The Kremlin insists that's not an option, and the separat-

ists hope that Russia, France and Germany refuse Zelenskyy's requests.

French officials say potential changes to the timeline will be discussed Monday but stressed that the summit is aimed at fulfilling the Minsk accord — not writing a new peace deal.



EFREM LUKATSK/AP

Activists hold posters at the president's office in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Sunday. About 1,000 activists planned to spend the night there waiting for the results of Monday peace talks in Paris.



Japanese PM says visit by Iran's president is planned

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday his country is arranging a visit by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani because it wants to play a greater role in resolving a nuclear impasse between Tehran and Washington and in relieving tensions in the Middle East, the source of more than 80% of Japan's oil.

Japan, a U.S. ally that has traditionally had friendly relations with Iran, seeks to serve as a mediator between the U.S. and Iran, a role that is also expected by the international community, Abe said.

He did not give details of the visit. Local media have reported that it is being arranged for later this month, before or after Rouhani's planned visit to Malaysia to attend an Islamic leaders' conference.

Tensions have escalated between Tehran and Washington since President Donald Trump's decision last year to withdraw

from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Abe, who has developed friendly ties with Trump, traveled to Iran in June in an unsuccessful effort to encourage Iran and the U.S. to hold talks to reduce tensions. Sanctions imposed by Washington on Iran which block it from selling crude oil abroad have crippled its economy, and Tehran has gradually reduced its commitment to the nuclear deal.

"Japan will do its utmost to relieve tension in the region and stabilize the situation through persistent efforts to hold a dialogue," Abe said. "From the point of view of energy security, it is only natural for Japan to play a role to contribute to the peace and stability in the Middle East while securing safe navigation for Japanese vessels."

Abe's government is also set to approve a contentious plan to send its military to the Middle East to ensure the safety of Japanese vessels transporting oil from the region.



*Postmark by Dec. 24th and Santa may have time to send a note in return!

WORLD

Red Cross: 26 killed in Ugandan torrential rains

KAMPALA, Uganda — At least 26 people have been killed in flood unleashed by heavy rains in different parts of Uganda, the Red Cross said Monday as authorities urged people in affected areas to relocate.

Seventeen flooding deaths have been confirmed in the western district of Bundibugyo. Another nine people have died in the mountainous districts of Sironko and Bududa in the east, where residents also face mudslides that can destroy entire enclaves, said Irene Nakasitita, a spokeswoman for the Uganda Red Cross.

Ugandan government officials have acknowledged the continuing threat from flooding and say relief is forthcoming to affected areas.

Over 6K arrests made in Hong Kong rallies

HONG KONG — Hong Kong police say they have made 6,022 arrests and fired nearly 16,000 tear gas rounds during six months of anti-government protests that have shaken the city.

Police say the arrests included 11 people detained in raids over the weekend that netted a pistol and other weapons.

Police also arrested 12 people Monday suspected of preparing gasoline bombs.

Police said they have also fired 10,000 rubber baton rounds during the six months of protests and that 493 officers have been injured.

Traffic jams choke Paris as strikes hold trains

PARIS — Paris commuters inched to work Monday through exceptional traffic jams as strikes to preserve retirement rights halted trains and subways for a fifth straight day.

Citing safety risks, the SNCF national rail network warned travelers to stay home or use "alternative means of locomotion" to get to work Monday instead of thronging platforms in hopes of getting the few available trains.

As a result, the national road authority reported more than 360 miles of traffic problems at rush hour around the Paris region.

Malaysia starts shots for polio after 27 years

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysia began a vaccination campaign in a rural town on Borneo island after a 3-month-old boy was confirmed to have polio in the country's first case of the highly infectious virus in 27 years.

The infant from Tuaran town in Sabah state tested positive for vaccine-derived polio virus type 1 on Friday after he was hospitalized with fever and muscle weakness. He is on respiratory support but his condition is stable, Health Minister Dzulkefly Ahmad said in a statement Monday.

Malaysia is the second Asian country to have reported a polio case after an outbreak in the Philippines in September.

From The Associated Press

Volcano erupts in New Zealand

By MARK BAKER
Associated Press

WHAKATANE, New Zealand — A volcanic island in New Zealand erupted Monday in a tower of ash and steam while dozens of tourists were exploring the moonlike surface, killing five people and leaving many more missing.

Police said they face still too dangerous hours later for rescuers to search for the missing.

Police Deputy Commissioner John Tims said the number of missing was in the double digits but he couldn't confirm an exact number. He said there were fewer than 50 people on the island when it erupted and 23 had been taken off, including the five dead.

Tims said experts had told them the island remained unstable but search and rescue teams wanted to get back as quickly as they could. He said there had been no contact with any of those who were missing.

He said both New Zealanders and overseas tourists were among those who were dead, missing or injured. He said most of the 18 who survived were injured and some had suffered severe burns.

Some of those involved were tourists from the Royal Caribbean International cruise ship Ovation of the Seas.

"A number of our guests were touring the island today," the company said. "We will offer all possible assistance to our guests and local authorities. Please keep all those affected in your prayers."

The cruise ship, which had left from Sydney last week, was scheduled to sail to the capital, Wellington, on Monday night but the company said it would instead remain in the Tauranga port overnight until it learned more on the situation.

"My god," Michael Schade wrote on Twitter as he posted video of the eruption. "My family and I had gotten off it 20 minutes before, were waiting at our boat about to leave when we saw it. Boat ride home tending to people our boat rescued was indescribable."

His video showed a wall of ash and steam around the island and a helicopter badly damaged and covered in ash. He said one woman was badly injured but seemed "strong" by the end.

White Island sits about 30 miles offshore from mainland New Zealand. Already people are questioning why tourists were still able to visit the island after scientists recently noted an uptick in volcanic activity.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern traveled to the region late Monday. She said the incident was "very significant."

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he'd offered Ardern his support.

"Australians have been caught

up in this terrible event and we are working to determine their wellbeing," Morrison wrote on Twitter.

Brad Scott, a volcanologist with research group GNS Science, said the eruption sent a plume of steam and ash about 12,000 feet into the air. He said it had also affected the whole of the White Island crater floor.

The GeoNet agency, which monitors volcanoes and earthquakes in New Zealand, raised the alert level on White Island from 1 to 2 on Nov. 18, noting an



GEORGE NOVAK, NEW ZEALAND HERALD/AP

White Island is shown after a volcanic eruption in New Zealand on Monday.

increase in the amount of sulfur dioxide gas, which originates from magma deep in the volcano. It also said at the time that over the previous weeks, the volcanic tremor had increased from weak to moderate strength.

GeoNet at first raised its alert level to 4, on a scale where 5 represents a major eruption. It later

dropped the alert level back down to 3. Scott said that was because the eruption wasn't sustained beyond the initial blast.

"In the scheme of things, for volcanic eruptions, it is not large," said Ken Gledhill from GeoNet. "But if you were close to that, it is not good."



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OPINION

Contemplating high crimes and misnomers

By KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

Notwithstanding three out of four law professors' case for impeaching the president during Wednesday's House Judiciary Committee hearing, I remain unconvinced.

Much to my disappointment, I should add.

The crux of this dreary impeachment process is whether Donald Trump violated his constitutional duty when he asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate Joe Biden and his son Hunter. Companion to this question is whether, as incentive, Trump made military aid and a White House visit contingent upon Zelenskyy's agreeing to conduct the investigation, or at least upon Zelenskyy publicly saying he would.

From this set of circumstances, House Democrats and most of the media have inferred that the president variously engaged in a quid pro quo, bribery and/or extortion and, more recently, abuse of power. Democrats have struggled to name that crime, so they might have difficulty landing on the correct language to use in their forthcoming articles of impeachment.

Here's the obvious sticking point: If Joe Biden were not running for president, no one would question Trump's request for information related to the junior Biden's overpaid position on the board of a natural gas company while his father was vice president of the United States and, coincidentally, charged with pushing anti-cor-

ruption efforts in Ukraine.

But then, virtually everyone knows that the only reason Trump was concerned about corruption was because Joe Biden was his likely opponent in the 2020 election. We know, too, that military aid was withheld for a time but released once a whistleblower report surfaced. The perceived offense isn't so much that Trump did these things but that an investigation — or at least the announcement of an investigation — would have directly benefited his 2020 election prospects.

When Joe Biden says he never discussed the board position with his son other than to say, "I hope you know what you're doing," I take him at his word. But I also question why he didn't say, "Son, I love you, but you can't take this job as long as I'm vice president of the United States."

Let's be honest: There was something odd going on with Hunter Biden and Burisma. Given his lack of qualifications, Hunter Biden's hiring by Burisma was transparently because of his last name, as he admitted himself during an October interview with ABC News. This isn't a crime, either, except perhaps of perception. The young Biden got lucky when he was born a Biden and, apparently, has enjoyed the benefits without inconvenience to his conscience.

Trump may be everything his critics say he is — corrupt, dishonest, an embarrassment and a liar. But what he did wasn't illegal in the vein of extortion or bribery, accusations which Democrats used before moving toward a discussion of broader concepts of high crimes and misdemeanors. While an act needn't be criminal to be

impeachable, the argument that Trump's conduct rises to the level of impeachable offense revolves around the facts that, one, Trump was seeking help from a foreign nation and, two, that he might have benefited personally. Involvement of a foreign nation in the nation's politics was an early concern of the Constitution's framers, which is partly why they included the impeachment clause.

Given that Trump didn't really care about an investigation and sought only to connect dad Biden with a corruption investigation, it is fair to infer that his motives were political. But, asking a fellow head of state to investigate a person doing business in another country isn't quite the same as inviting him to meddle in U.S. elections. Ultimately, the result might be the same, assuming a damaging finding about Joe Biden. But wouldn't American voters want to know if such were the case? And, isn't Trump the meddler to the extent that he, not Ukraine, would have used the information?

What's clear is Zelenskyy did not announce or pursue an investigation and U.S. military aid was released. Full stop. We've yet to see what articles of impeachment the House will settle upon. But if one is abuse of power, one wonders why now? Trump has seemingly been abusing power since he took office. His gamble that pressuring Zelenskyy would earn him political rewards was stupid and amateurish for such a seasoned thug, but his threatened impeachment seems more a political means to an end than a rally to the Constitution's defense.

Dems' case isn't a death blow for King Trump

By DAVID VON DREHLE
The Washington Post

Like many a bright undergraduate before and after, young Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. took on an authority figure and emerged confident that he had struck a shattering blow. Proud of his college essay critiquing Plato, the future Supreme Court justice sent his paper to the most brilliant man in his father's dazzling circle, Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The genius replied: "I have read your piece. When you strike at a king, you must kill him."

The law professors who testified in Congress about impeachment the other day did their pedantic best to remind the nation that the president is not a king. But Emerson's insight still applies. Striking at a president through impeachment is a serious business and should be done only with a reasonable prospect of success. It requires more — more evidence, more persuasion, more clarity, more discipline — than other less fraught, less perilous, projects.

What the president is can be disciplined. House majority giving up on persuading the undecided public. Formerly cautious House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has surrendered the reins on her feckless caucus and now rushes to get this doomed project over as soon as she can. Perhaps in today's hectic news environment, America will have forgotten by Election Day that the Democrats knowingly armed themselves with a penknife for a gunfight — and won't ask whether such a party should be trusted on its promises to reconfigure the entire society.

Let me say that I hold no brief for President Donald Trump. But I have observed his methods since he formally entered politics in 2015. He thrives not by building

consensus but by creating conflicts and declaring himself the winner. Because he is literally shameless — that is, he lacks the capacity for embarrassment or contrition

— nothing fazes him about the conflicts themselves, and any sort of victory will do. Whoever walks strike at him politically, therefore, must take care to finish the job.

Polls show that the impeachers aren't there yet. Support for impeachment did not grow during the House Intelligence Committee hearings; if anything, support faded. Rather than keep grinding away, using gunshots and courts to expose more congressional scandal, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., has hung out the "closed" sign and directed the blinds on his impeachment inquiry. His staff spat out a report that could have been titled, "Preaching to the Choir."

Nor has Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., enhanced the case against Trump. His single day of testimony from a panel of law professors cannot have changed a single American mind. Democrats already have the full support of every voter who dreams of a nation governed by the Harvard faculty.

Nadler's seminar did produce one revealing, though depressing, moment. Speaking of a body of evidence that has convinced zero Republican senators and less than half of the American people, professor Michael Gerhardt, of the University of North Carolina, declared, "If what we're talking about is not impeachable, nothing is impeachable."

Nothing? This offense that House Democrats can't be bothered to fully investigate, can't be troubled to thoroughly document, can't discipline themselves to coil into a mortal blow — this is the very worst thing any president could conceivably do? No crime will ever be impeachable unless this halfhearted mess is seen through to defeat?

Gerhardt's statement is the sort of vacuous hyperbole people fall back on to prepare themselves for a wasteful gesture. We must do this thing because really, we have no choice. The sacrifice will be rewarded in the sweet by and by. You either nod along, or you think critically: you can't do both. And once you've accepted the professor's assertion that Schiff's committee has fully nailed down the most egregious crime any president could commit, the rest is fated. Like a soldier in the trenches of World War I, you just hope your victory is made more glorious by its tragic inevitability.

What we will hear now is a great deal of tut-tutting about the spinelessness of the Republican Senate that sits in judgment on the charges. Some of it will be deserved. The Senate has stood up to Trump over certain presidential appointments and such issues as the recent declaration of support for protesters in Hong Kong. But on matters related to Trump's appalling conduct in office, the GOP senators are quivering lapdogs.

When they reject the impeachment, though, they will do it for the same reason Democrats are pressing it: fear of their base voters. Pelosi's long reluctance to impeach was an expression of hope that her party could build a case against Trump strong enough to rally the American public at the polls. Her decision to cave now, with public opinion unimpaired, is a hopeless appeal to the base. Under no pressure from a decided American majority, Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and company will cave to their own hard core.

And Trump, having been struck at, will live to fight another day — Election Day 2020.

David Von Drehle is a Washington Post columnist. He is the author of "Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year."

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



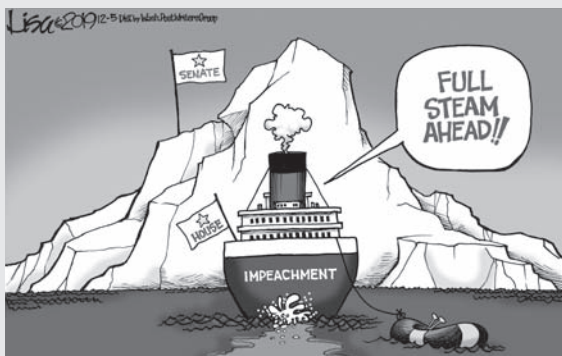
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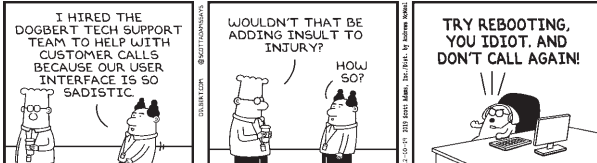


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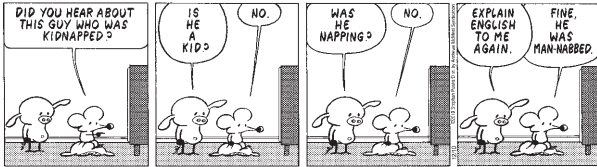
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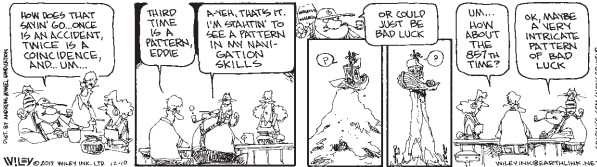
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Pearls Before Swine



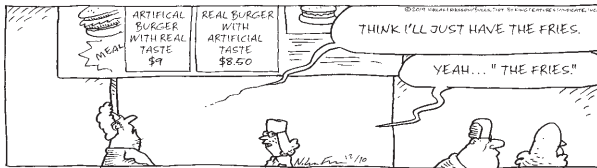
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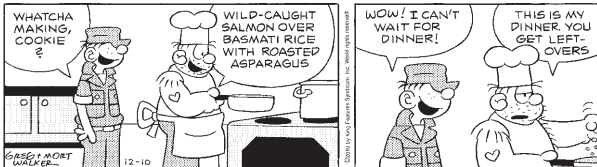
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
				18				19	20			
21	22	23					24					
25					26	27				28	29	
30					31					32		
33					34					35		
				36					37			
38	39						40	41				
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

ACROSS

- 1 Wheelchair access
- 5 Seeger or Sampras
- 9 Happy hour venue
- 12 Otherwise
- 13 Algerian seaport
- 14 Son-gun link
- 15 Church fundraiser handout
- 17 URL ending
- 18 Some July babies
- 19 Tea variety
- 21 Thread
- 24 Mr. Guinness
- 25 Sick as —
- 26 Nutty holiday treat
- 30 Actor Harrison
- 31 Two score
- 32 French pasta
- 33 Popular pasta
- 35 Trucker with a handle
- 36 — -friendly
- 37 Old hat
- 38 Belly button type
- 40 Miles away
- 42 Frequently
- 43 Arc in a statistical graph
- 48 "The Raven" writer
- 49 "Casablanca" role

- 50 Line of fashion?
- 51 Old map letters
- 52 Carolina college
- 53 Makes a choice

DOWN

- 1 Yank's foe
- 2 "The Greatest"
- 3 AOL rival
- 4 Pirate costume part
- 5 Little, to Verdi
- 6 Eventful periods
- 7 Sailor
- 8 Bridge game tactic
- 9 Reading groups
- 10 Roundish do
- 11 Fury
- 16 Not 'neath
- 20 Poetic dusk
- 21 MacDonald's place
- 22 Concept
- 23 Utility knife
- 24 Play opener
- 26 Indigent
- 27 East ender?
- 28 Small balls
- 29 Richard of "Chicago"
- 31 Comped thing
- 34 "— was saying ..."
- 35 Tenor Enrico
- 37 Lobbying gp.
- 38 "Clumsy me!"
- 39 Sci-fi fleet
- 40 To boot
- 41 Spanish custard
- 44 Right angle
- 45 Workout unit
- 46 Cistern
- 47 Ambulance initials

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	S	T	I	W	O	W	D	E	L	E
S	H	A	N	G	H	A	I	M	A	C
S	H	O	P	W	O	R	N	I	N	O
		A	E	S		G	R	E	T	E
B	E	G	I	N		T	S	A	R	
A	L	A	N		P	O	P	C	O	R
N	A	M		A	R	R	A	Y		O
		N	E	W	B	O	R	N		C
			R	O	D	E		F	A	R
F	O	R	Y	O	U		A	E	R	
E	R	I	E		C	A	P	E	H	O
S	A	C	S		E	M	P	L	O	Y
S	L	O	T		R	A	T		P	L

12-10

CRYPTOQUIP

SR UQ UQIQ SZDAC CD XQSJQ

DO DAI VIQSN CILG CD S

UQRC FQINSO HLCK, GQDQXQ

HILQV "ZDOO JDKSFQ!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TENNIS NOTABLE WHO WAS MUCH MORE BOHEMIAN THAN ALMOST ALL OTHER COURT LUMINARIES: ARTIER ASHE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals Y

SCOREBOARD/NHL

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Deals

Sunday's transactions

National League
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Agreed to terms with OF Keon Broxton on a minor league contract.

NEW YORK METS — Named Hensley Meulens bench coach, Jeremy Hefner pitching coach, and Tony DeFranco first base coach. Promoted Jeremy Accardo to assistant pitching coach.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Ryle Finnegan.

National Hockey League
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled F Julien Gauthier from Charlotte (AHL).
ST. LOUIS BLUES — Assigned F Austin Poganski to San Antonio (AHL).

COLLEGE
MEMPHIS — Promoted deputy head football coach Ryan Silverfield to interim head coach.

College basketball

College football

Bowl Glance

Friday, Dec. 20
Bahamas Bowl
Nassau
Buffalo (7-5) vs. Charlotte (7-5)
Friday, Dec. 21
Utah State (6-5) vs. Kent State (6-6)
Saturday, Dec. 21
Celebration Bowl
At Atlanta
NC A&T (8-3) vs. Alcorn State (9-3)
New Mexico Bowl
Albuquerque
Central Michigan (8-5) vs. San Diego State (10-1)
Curry Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Liberty (10-0) vs. Georgia Southern (7-5)
Sunday, Dec. 22
Boca Raton (FIA) Bowl
MIU (10-2) vs. FAU (10-3)
Camellia Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
FIU (6-6) vs. Montgomery State (7-5)
Las Vegas Bowl
Las Vegas
Boise State (12-1) vs. Washington (7-5)
New Orleans Bowl
UAB (9-4) vs. Appalachian State (12-1)
Monday, Dec. 23
Gasparilla Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
UCF (9-3) vs. Marshall (8-4)
Tuesday, Dec. 24
Hawai'i Bowl
Honolulu
BYU (7-5) vs. Hawaii (10-1)
Thursday, Dec. 26
Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
Miami (6-6) vs. Louisiana Tech (9-3)
Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit
Pittsburgh (7-5) vs. Eastern Michigan (6-6)
Friday, Dec. 27
Millions Trophy
Annapolis, Md.
North Carolina (9-6) vs. Temple (8-4)
Pinstripe Bowl
New York
Wake Forest (6-4) vs. Connecticut (6-6)
Texas Bowl
Houston
Oklahoma State (8-4) vs. Texas A&M (7-5)
Holiday Bowl
San Diego
Iowa (9-3) vs. Southern Cal (8-4)
Cheez-It Bowl
Phoenix
Air Force (10-2) vs. Washington State (6-6)
Saturday, Dec. 28
Camping World Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Notre Dame (10-2) vs. Iowa State (7-5)
Cotton Bowl Classic
Arlington, Texas
Penn State (10-2) vs. Memphis (12-1)
Peach Bowl
Tallahassee
LSU (13-0) vs. Oklahoma (12-1)
CFP Semifinal
Glendale, Ariz.
CFP Semifinal
Ohio State (13-0) vs. Clemson (13-0)
SERPFR First Responder Bowl
Dallas
Western Kentucky (7-5) vs. Western Michigan (7-5)
Music City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
Mississippi State (6-6) vs. Tennessee (7-5)
Redbox Bowl
Santa Clara, Calif.
Illinois (6-6) vs. California (7-5)
Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
Florida (10-2) vs. Virginia (9-4)
Charlotte, N.C.
Belk Bowl
Kentucky (7-5) vs. Finia Tech (8-4)
Sun Bowl
El Paso, Texas
Florida State (6-6) vs. Arizona State (7-5)
Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
Kansas State (6-4) vs. Navy (9-2)
Arizona Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
Wyoming (7-5) vs. Georgia State (7-5)
Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
Texas (7-5) vs. Utah (11-2)
Wednesday, Jan. 1
Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Michigan (9-3) vs. Alabama (10-2)
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
Minnesota (10-2) vs. Auburn (9-3)
Rose Bowl
Pasadena, Calif.
Oregon (11-2) vs. Wisconsin (10-3)

Sugar Bowl
New Orleans
Georgia (11-2) vs. Baylor (11-2)
Thursday, Jan. 2
Birmingham (AIA) Bowl
Cincinnati (10-3) vs. Boston College (6-6)
Gator Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
Indiana (8-4) vs. Tennessee (7-5)
Friday, Jan. 3
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
Ohio (6-6) vs. Nevada (7-5)
Saturday, Jan. 4
Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas
Southern Miss (7-5) vs. Tulane (6-6)
Monday, Jan. 5
Lendingtree Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Miami (10-3) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (10-3)
Monday, Jan. 13
College Football Championship
New Orleans
Peach Bowl winner vs. Fiesta Bowl winner
Saturday, Jan. 18
East-West Shrine Classic
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
East vs. West

FC3 playoff
Second Round
Saturday, Dec. 7
James Madison (66, Monmouth (Nv) 21
Northern Iowa (13, St. Bonaventure 10
Weber State 26, Kennesaw State 20
Minnesota State 47, Arkansas (Nv) 21
Illinois State 24, Central Arkansas 14
North Dakota State 37, North Dakota 17
Montana 73, SE Louisiana 28
Austin Peay 42, Sacramento State 28
Quarterfinals
Friday, Dec. 13
James Madison (12-1) vs. Northern Iowa (10-4)
North Dakota State (10-3) vs. Austin Peay (10-4)
Weber State (10-3) vs. Montana (10-3)
Saturday, Dec. 14
North Dakota State (13-0) vs. Illinois State (10-4)
Seminifinals
Saturday, Dec. 21
Championship
Saturday, Jan. 11
At Toyota Stadium
Frisco, Texas
Seminifinal winners

Division II playoffs
Quarterfinals
Saturday, Dec. 7
Slippery Rock 66, Notre Dame (Ohio) 59
West Florida 43, Lenoir-Rhyne 38
Ferris St. 25, NW Mississippi State 23
Minnesota State 42, Texas A&M-Commerce 21
Seminifinals
Saturday, Dec. 14
West Florida (11-2) at Slippery Rock (13-0)
Minnesota State (13-0) at Ferris State (12-0)
Championship
Saturday, Dec. 21
At McKinney, Texas
Seminifinal winners

Division III playoffs
Quarterfinals
Saturday, Dec. 7
Muhlenberg 24, Salisbury 9
North Central (Ill.) 31, Delaware Valley 15
Wisconsin-Whitewater 26, Mary Hardin-Baylor 7
Saint John's (Minn.) 34, Wheaton (Ill.) 33
Seminifinals
Saturday, Dec. 14
Muhlenberg (13-0) vs. North Central (Ill.) (12-1)
Saint John's (Minn.) (12-1) vs. Wisconsin-Whitewater (12-1)
Championship
Friday, Dec. 20
At Shenandoah, Texas
Seminifinal winners

NIAA playoffs
Seminifinals
Saturday, Dec. 7
Marion (Ind.) 34, Lincolnton Wilson 24
Morningside 21, Grand View 16
Championship
Saturday, Dec. 21
At Eddie G. Robinson Stadium
Houston, La.
Morningside (10-3) vs. Marion (Ind.) (12-0).

NHL roundup

Coyotes rally for SO
win over Blackhawks

Associated Press

CHICAGO — After falling behind early, the surprising Arizona Coyotes came back to pull out a win and grab a share of first place in the Pacific Division.

Connor Garland and Nick Schmaltz scored on the Coyotes' first two attempts against Robin Lehner in the shootout, and Arizona rallied from two goals down to beat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-3 on Sunday night.

Only Patrick Kane connected against Darcy Kuemper in the tiebreaker as the Coyotes improved to 5-2 in shootouts this season and finished a 3-1 road trip. Arizona trailed 2-0 and 3-1 in the first period, before tying the score in the second. Coach Rick Tocchet liked what he saw as the game went on.

"We talked after the second," Tocchet said. "If we win this period, it's a hell of a trip instead of just an OK trip."

With 40 points, Arizona is tied for first in the Pacific with Edmonton, which lost 3-2 to Buffalo in overtime on Sunday.

"Happy to get the win here," said Schmaltz, a former Blackhawk. "A fun game to be part of."

Garland got his team-leading 12th goal in regulation, and Carl Soderberg and Christian Fischer also scored. Kuemper finished with 26 saves through overtime.

The Coyotes were 39-35 this season, but fell short of the playoffs after finishing last in 2017-18.

So far this season, Arizona is the NHL's top defensive team with a 2.28 goals-against average.

Jonathan Toews has a goal and two assists for his first three-point game this season for injury-depleted Chicago.

Jets 3, Ducks 2: Mark Scheifele scored twice, the second on a power play with 4:22 left for his 400th NHL point, in host Winnipeg's victory over Anaheim. Scheifele beat goalie John Gibson over the glove for his 13th of the season. Winnipeg is 5-1-1 in its past seven games.

Jakob Silfverberg scored his team-leading 11th goal for the Ducks.

Sharks 3, Oilers 2 (OT): Colin Miller scored 1:13 into overtime to end visiting Buffalo's two-game skid.

Miller took a feed through the crease from Marcus Johansson to score the winner. Jack Eichel picked up an assist on the play to extend his point streak to 13 games.

Panthers 5, Sharks 1: Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 30 shots to win for the second straight night as host Florida beat San Jose.

Aleksander Barkov, Keith Yandle and Frank Vatrano each had a goal and an assist to help Florida win for the third time in four games.

Kevin Labanc scored and Martin Jones had 28 saves for the Sharks, who lost their fourth straight (0-3-1).

Rangers 5, Golden Knights 3: Alexander Georgiev stopped 38 shots for his second shutout of the season and visiting New Jersey beat Vegas.

Artemi Panarin, Chris Kreider, Jacob Trouba, Jesper Fast and Mika Zibanejad scored for the Rangers.

Malcolm Subban made his seventh straight start and made 20 saves for the Golden Knights, who had their five-game point streak snapped as they dropped to 7-6-3 at home this season.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	29	15	9	5	45	105	73
Florida	29	15	9	5	35	99	99
Buffalo	30	14	10	6	44	102	94
Montreal	30	13	11	6	32	97	102
Toronto	30	13	11	6	32	97	102
Tampa Bay	27	14	10	3	31	102	87
Ottawa	30	12	17	1	25	79	95
Detroit	28	21	3	4	47	116	124
Metropolitan Division							
Washington	27	12	9	6	49	115	88
N.Y. Islanders	28	19	7	2	40	81	68
Carolina	29	15	9	5	32	81	71
Pittsburgh	30	17	9	4	38	103	81
Carolina	30	18	11	1	37	87	62
Chicago	29	15	9	5	32	81	71
Columbus	29	14	14	4	26	71	91
New Jersey	29	15	15	3	33	74	109

Western Conference

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	31	18	7	6	42	92	83
Colorado	30	18	7	5	49	103	73
Winnipeg	30	18	10	2	38	87	82
Minnesota	29	15	12	2	32	81	71
Minnesota	30	14	12	4	32	90	98
Nashville	28	13	10	5	31	92	92
Dallas	28	12	11	5	28	82	92
Pacific Division							
Arizona	32	18	10	4	40	89	75
Edmonton	32	18	10	4	40	97	93
Vancouver	30	15	12	3	34	91	81
Calgary	31	15	12	4	34	81	92
San Jose	29	15	12	2	33	81	71
Anaheim	30	12	14	4	28	79	90
Los Angeles	31	11	18	2	24	77	102

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Tuesday's games
Philadelphia 4, Ottawa 3
San Jose 1, Dallas 2
Colorado 4, Boston 1
Carolina 6, Minnesota 2
Toronto 3, Anaheim 1
Toronto 5, St. Louis 2
Florida 4, Columbus 3
Detroit 3, Washington 5
Calgary 6, New Jersey 4
Nashville 4, Los Angeles 3

Sunday's games
Winnipeg 5, San Jose 1
N.Y. Rangers 5, Vegas 0
Arizona 4, Chicago 3
Buffalo 3, Edmonton 2, OT

Monday's games
N.Y. Islanders at Tampa Bay
Columbus at Washington
Boston at Ottawa
Calgary at Colorado
Tuesday's games
Tampa Bay at Florida
Montreal at Pittsburgh
St. Louis at Buffalo
San Jose at Nashville
Detroit at Winnipeg
Anaheim at Minnesota
Toronto at Vancouver
Calgary at Arizona
Carolina at Edmonton
Toronto at Vancouver
Chicago at Vegas
N.Y. Rangers at Los Angeles

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Top 25 roundup

No. 5 Virginia rebounds from loss to knock off No. 7 North Carolina

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Mamadi Diakite scored 12 points and No. 5 Virginia rebounded from a blowout loss to beat No. 7 North Carolina 56-47 on Sunday.

Tomas Woldetensae added 11 points and Francisco Caffaro had 10 and six rebounds for the Cavaliers (8-1, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference). They lost 69-40 at Purdue in the Big Ten-ACC Challenge on Wednesday night.

Freshman Cole Anthony led North Carolina (6-3, 0-1) with 12 points and fellow freshman Armando Bacot had 11. The Tar Heels became the seventh team held below 50 points by Virginia this season.

Virginia led 39-35 before two free throws by Kibei Clark sparked a 10-0 run just past the midpoint of the second half. Woldetensae and Justin McKoy each added a pair of free throws and red-shirt freshman Caffaro finished the burst with a pair of inside baskets. The second came after a rugged scrum under the basket and drew roars from the crowd.

No. 9 Gonzaga 83, No. 22 Washington 76: At Seattle, Killian Tillie made a three-pointer as the shot clock expired with 2:55 remaining and finished with 15 points. Joel Ayayi hit another three with 24 seconds left and Gonzaga held off Washington.

Control of the in-state rivalry remained on the east

side of the state as the Bulldogs (10-1) could never pull away but made the key plays in the closing minutes to hold off the young Huskies (7-2). Gonzaga has won six straight in the series, with Washington's last win coming in 2005.

No. 11 Michigan State 77, Rutgers 65: Cassius Winston had 23 points and seven assists, helping Michigan State pull away to beat visiting Rutgers in the Big Ten opener for both teams.

The Spartans (6-3) led by just two points midway through the second half before outscoring the Scarlet Knights 16-7 to take control. Michigan State's Gabe Brown scored a season-high 14 points, starting in place of Rocket Watts, who is expected to be out for about a week with a leg injury.

Iowa State 76, No. 16 Seton Hall 66: Tyrese Haliburton scored 17 points, George Condit had a season-high 17 off the bench and host Iowa State knocked off Seton Hall for its second straight victory.

No. 17 Florida State 72, Clemson 53: Devin Vassell had 14 points and nine rebounds and Florida State made 15 three-pointers against visiting Clemson.

No. 19 Dayton 78, Saint Mary's 68: Jalen Crutcher had a season-high 21 points and tied a career high with five three-pointers in Dayton's victory over Saint Mary's in the Jerry Colangelo Classic at Talking Stick Resort Arena.



STEVE HELBER/AP

Virginia coach Tony Bennett, right, talks with Mamadi Diakite during Sunday's 56-47 win over North Carolina in Charlottesville, Va.

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NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	16	5	.762	—
Philadelphia	15	7	.708	1½
Toronto	15	7	.682	1½
Brooklyn	13	10	.565	4
New York	4	19	.174	13

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	17	6	.739	—
Orlando	11	11	.500	9½
Charlotte	16	360	9	—
Washington	7	15	.318	3½
Atlanta	6	17	.261	11

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	15	8	.652	5
Indiana	15	8	.652	5
Detroit	9	14	.391	7
Chicago	8	16	.333	12½
Cleveland	5	17	.227	14½

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	16	7	.696	—
Houston	15	7	.682	½
San Antonio	9	14	.391	7
Memphis	6	16	.273	9½
New Orleans	1	19	.048	16

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	14	6	.667	—
Utah	13	10	.565	2
Oklahoma City	10	12	.455	4½
Minnesota	10	12	.455	4½
Portland	9	15	.375	6½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	13	8	.615	—
L.A. Clippers	17	7	.708	4
Phoenix	10	12	.455	10
Sacramento	9	13	.409	11
Golden State	5	19	.208	16

Saturday's games

Dallas 130, New Orleans 84	104
Indiana 104, New York 103	103
Philadelphia 141, Cleveland 94	94
Houston 115, Phoenix 109	109
Utah 126, Memphis 112	112
Sunday's games	
Brooklyn 105, Denver 102	102
Atlanta 122, Charlotte 107	107
O.C. Clippers 135, Washington 119	119
Miami 110, Chicago 105, OT	105
Philadelphia 110, Toronto 104	104
Sacramento 110, Dallas 106	106
Oklahoma City 108, Portland 96	96
L.A. Lakers 142, Minnesota 125	125

Monday's games

L.A. Clippers at Indiana	Indiana
Cleveland at Boston	Boston
Detroit at New Orleans	New Orleans
Orlando at Milwaukee	Milwaukee
Sacramento at Houston	Houston
Toronto at Chicago	Chicago
Minnesota at Phoenix	Phoenix
Atlanta at Miami	Miami
Memphis at Golden State	Golden State

Tuesday's games

Washington at Charlotte	Charlotte
Atlanta at Philadelphia	Philadelphia
L.A. Lakers at Portland	Portland
Wednesday's games	
Boston at Indiana	Indiana
Houston at Cleveland	Cleveland
L.A. Clippers at Toronto	Toronto
L.A. Lakers at Orlando	Orlando
Charlotte at Brooklyn	Brooklyn
Utah at Minnesota	Minnesota
Memphis at Phoenix	Phoenix
New Orleans at Milwaukee	Milwaukee
Oklahoma City at Sacramento	Sacramento
New York at Golden State	Golden State

Leaders

	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Harden, HOU	230	283	147	35.8
Antetokounmpo, MIL	233	263	147	30.8
Doncic, DAL	232	175	689	30.0
Young, ATL	22	208	141	33.8
Beal, WAS	22	122	133	28.0

Rebound

	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Drummond, DET	23	109	282	39.1
Capela, HOU	19	76	188	26.4
Gobert, UT	21	70	211	28.1
Antetokounmpo, MIL	23	61	241	30.2
Sabonis, IND	21	75	200	27.5

Assists

	AST	AVG
James, LAL	24	259
Doncic, DAL	23	211
Rubio, PHX	17	152
Simmons, PHI	22	266
Young, ATL	22	185

Team Statistics

Through Sunday

	Offense	Pts	AVG
Milwaukee	23	2783	121.0
Houston	22	2652	120.5
Washington	12	2600	118.2
Dallas	23	2713	118.0
L.A. Clippers	14	2767	115.2
Phoenix	22	2636	115.3
Minnesota	22	2526	114.8
Indiana	14	2748	114.5
New Orleans	23	2603	113.2
Portland	22	2576	112.7

Defense

	Pts	AVG
Denver	21	2140
Orlando	22	2258
Boston	22	2252
Philadelphia	24	2495
Indiana	24	2493
L.A. Lakers	24	2511
Miami	23	2427
Toronto	22	2329
Utah	23	2441
Milwaukee	23	2471

Davis powers Lakers to win over T-Wolves

LA gets season-high 50 points from All-Star F in 'smash mouth' effort

BY DAN GREENSPAN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Anthony Davis hit a long floater with 4:39 remaining to reach 50 points for the first time with the Los Angeles Lakers. The shot that got him to the half-century mark was hardly representative of the work that preceded it.

Davis had a relentless series of fast-break points, second-chance opportunities and attacks in the paint that pummeled the Minnesota Timberwolves, a performance Lakers coach Frank Vogel described as a "smash mouth way of getting 50."

'Just an old-school performance, and one for the ages.'

Frank Vogel
Lakers coach, on Anthony Davis

performance, and one for the ages," Vogel said.

Davis had a season-high 50 points and the Lakers improved to a league-best 21-3 with a 142-125 win over the Timberwolves on Sunday night.

Davis was 20 of 29 from the field and made all 10 of his free throws to go along with seven rebounds and six assists, reaching the 50-point mark for the fourth time in his career.

"It was very special to do something like this in front of these great fans, a historical franchise and my teammates, especially the way we've been playing," Davis said. "It was nothing but amazing."

LeBron James had 32 points and 13 assists despite committing four fouls in the first half. Alex Caruso added 16 points as the Lakers



RNGO H.W. CHU/AP

The Lakers' Anthony Davis shoots while defended by Timberwolves forward Andrew Wiggins on Sunday in Los Angeles. Davis scored 50 in the Lakers' 142-125 win.

won their fourth straight and improved to 10-2 at home.

Davis had 42 points through three quarters, one more than his previous single-game high this season, 41 points in his return to New Orleans on Nov. 27. He tacked on 15 points in the third, but balanced scoring allowed Minnesota to stay within 110-103 as the quarter closed.

The Timberwolves had seven players with at least 12 points, including all five starters. Karl-Anthony Towns and Andrew Wiggins each had 19 points as Minnesota lost its fourth straight game.

The Lakers are 21-3 for the first time since 2008-09, when they went on to win the NBA title in Pau Gasol's first full season playing alongside Kobe Bryant.

Roundup

Herro's 27 points lead Heat past Bulls in OT

Associated Press

MIAMI — Game on the line, perfect home record on the line, and the Miami Heat turned to their teenager.

Tyler Herro came through. The rookie guard scored 27 points — including 16 of Miami's final 18 — and the Heat held off the Chicago Bulls 110-105 on Sunday night. They improved to 10-0 at home this season, extending the best home start in franchise history.

"I don't shy away from taking the big shot," Herro said. That's obvious.

The 19-year-old made three shots from beyond the arc in overtime, plus another with 7.1 seconds left in regulation just to help Miami get into the extra session. Of his five field goals in the final 6 minutes, four of them were assisted by Jimmy Butler.

"If your max player trusts you at that point in the game — and Jimmy was looking for him — that says all you need to know," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "That trust has been earned within our walls. Jimmy has seen what this kid does in those situations."



LYNNE SHADY/AP

Heat guard Tyler Herro, right, goes to the basket in front of Bulls Coby White, left, and Chris Dunn during Sunday's game in Miami.

76ers 110, Raptors 104: Tobias Harris scored 26 points and rookie Mattheus Thybulle had a career-high 20 points, includ-

ing a pair of free throws with 23 seconds left, to lead Philadelphia past Toronto for its 12th straight home win.

Ben Simmons had 16 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists as the Sixers remained unbeaten at home this season.

Clippers 135, Wizards 119: Kawhi Leonard had 34 points and 11 rebounds and Los Angeles bounced back from its worst loss of the season with a win over Washington.

Paul George scored 27 points and Montrezl Harrell had nine of his 20 in the fourth quarter for the Clippers, who improved to 4-6 away from home two games into their six-game trip.

The victory came two days after Los Angeles opened the trip with a 119-91 loss at Eastern Conference-leading Milwaukee.

Nets 105, Nuggets 102: Spencer Dinwiddie scored 24 points and Brooklyn held off visiting Denver for its third straight victory.

The Nuggets had a chance to force overtime, but Jamal Murray missed a three-pointer from the wing as time expired.

Jarrett Allen added 19 points and 11 rebounds for Brooklyn. Star guard Kyrie Irving missed his 12th straight game because of a right shoulder impingement.

Kings 110, Mavericks 106: Nemanja Bjelica matched his career best with 30 points and Luka Doncic missed a game-tying attempt in the final seconds as Sacramento withstood a furious rally and beat host Dallas.

Buddy Hield scored 26 points, including five three-pointers, for Sacramento.

Thunder 108, Trail Blazers 96: Dennis Schroder and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander each scored 21 points and Oklahoma City opened a four-game road trip with a win over Portland.

The Thunder have won four of their last five games, the team's best stretch of the season. Chris Paul finished with 20 points.

Hawks 122, Hornets 107: Trae Young had 30 points and nine assists and the Atlanta beat host Charlotte for its second win in 13 games.

Jabari Parker added 19 points and Vince Carter had 17 off the bench on 7-for-9 shooting.

OLYMPICS/NFL

Russia gets 4-year ban for doping

Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Russia was slapped Monday with a four-year ban from international sports events, including next summer's Tokyo Olympics, over a longstanding doping scandal, although its athletes will still be able to compete if they can show they are clean competitors.

The ruling by the World Anti-Doping Agency's executive committee means that Russia's flag, name and anthem will not appear at the Tokyo Games, and the country also could be stripped of hosting world championships in Olympic sports.

The sanctions are the harshest punishment yet for Russian state authorities who were accused of tampering with a Moscow laboratory database. Russia's anti-doping agency can appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport within 21 days — an action it has signaled it will take.

"Russia was afforded every opportunity to get its house in order ... but it chose instead to continue in its stance of deception and denial," WADA president Craig Reedie said.

Russian athletes can compete in major events only if they are not implicated in positive doping tests or if their data was not manipulated, according to the WADA ruling.

For soccer's 2022 World Cup, WADA said the Russian team will play under its name in the qualification program in Europe. If it qualifies to play in Qatar, the team name must be changed to something neutral that likely would not include the word "Russia."

At the past two track and field world championships, Russians competed as "Authorized Neutral Athlete." A softer line was taken ahead of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Games, when the International Olympic Committee suspended the Russian Olympic body yet allowed athletes and teams to compete as "Olympic Athlete from Russia."

Going forward, they cannot use the name of the country in the name of the team," WADA president-elect Witold Banka told The Associated Press.

Legal fallout from the WADA ruling at CAS seems sure to include preparations for the Tokyo Olympics, which open July 24.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev urged sports organizations to appeal and said WADA's ruling was "a continuation of this anti-Russian hysteria which has already become chronic."

The latest round of sanctions were imposed because tampering with the Moscow data was a new violation of anti-doping rules committed as recently as January.

Handing over a clean database to WADA was a key requirement given to Russia 15 months ago to help bring closure to a scandal that tainted the Olympics over the last decade.

Packers 20, Redskins 15

Washington	0	6	3	6-15
Green Bay	14	0	0	3-20

First Quarter

GB—Jones 4 run (Crosby kick), 9:06.
GB—Tonyan 12 pass from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 3:34.

Second Quarter

Wash.—Peterson run (kick failed), 3:44.
Third Quarter
GB—FG Crosby 22, 10:08
Wash.—FG Hopkins 52, 1:11

Fourth Quarter

GB—FG Crosby 33, 2:34
Wash.—McLaurin pass 13 pass from Haskins (run failed), 1:10

Was	GB
First downs	18 38
Total Net Yards	262 341
Rushes-yards	28-121 28-174
Passing	141 167
Punt Returns	1-5 4-18
Kickoff Returns	1-19 1-14
Interceptions Ret.	0-0 1-3
Comp-Att-Int	16-27-1 18-26-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-29 4-28
Fumbles-Lost	2-0 1-1
Penalties-Yards	5-25 5-34
Time of Possession	29:36 30:24

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Washington, Peterson 20-76, Gidycz 5-42, Smallwood 2-4, Haskins 1-1 (minus 1). **Green Bay**, Jones 16-234, Williams 7-24, Rodgers 5-42.
PASSING—Washington, Haskins 16-27-1, **Green Bay**, Rodgers 18-28-0-19.
RECEIVING—Washington, McLaurin 4-57, Thompson 7-43, Sims Jr. 4-40, Harmon 1-30. **Green Bay**, Jones 6-58, Graham 3-40, Adams 2-19, Tonyan 1-12, Allison 1-11, Lewis 1-5.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Scoreboard

American Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	0	0	.769	338	168
Pittsburgh	9	0	0	.750	274	112
N.Y. Jets	5	3	0	.385	226	301
Miami	3	10	0	.231	211	399
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	8	5	0	.615	317	309
San Francisco	7	6	0	.538	242	242
Indianapolis	6	7	0	.462	296	295
Jacksonville	6	7	0	.462	296	295
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Baltimore	11	2	0	.846	430	236
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	341	242
Cleveland	6	7	0	.462	273	291
Cincinnati	4	9	0	.308	217	385
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Kansas City	4	6	0	.400	271	281
San Diego	4	6	0	.400	271	281
Denver	5	8	0	.385	236	261
L.A. Chargers	5	8	0	.385	289	251

National Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	6	7	0	.462	334	267
Philadelphia	5	7	0	.417	274	284
Washington	3	10	0	.231	188	310
N.Y. Giants	2	10	0	.167	230	396
y-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	344	239
Tampa Bay	7	6	0	.538	378	381
Carolina	5	8	0	.385	300	360
Atlanta	5	8	0	.385	300	360
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	10	3	0	.769	309	270
Baltimore	9	4	0	.692	341	321
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	243	232
Detroit	6	7	0	.462	287	335
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	11	2	0	.846	397	229
Seattle	10	3	0	.769	341	270
L.A. Rams	8	5	0	.615	311	262
Arizona	7	6	0	.538	269	272

x-cinched playoff spot
y-cinched wild-card spot

Thursday's game

Chicago 31, Dallas 24

Sunday's games

Green Bay 20, Washington 15
Baltimore 20, Detroit 17
Atlanta 40, Carolina 20
San Francisco 48, New England 35
Dallas 24, Houston 24
N.Y. Jets 21, Miami 21
Carolina 24, Atlanta 17
L.A. Chargers 45, Jacksonville 10
Tennessee 42, Oakland 21
Kansas City 23, New England 16
Pittsburgh 23, Arizona 17
L.A. Rams 28, Seattle 17

Monday's games

N.Y. Giants 40, Dallas 24

Thursday, Dec. 12

Sunday, Dec. 15

Denver at Kansas City
Buffalo at Detroit
Houston at Tennessee
San Francisco at Seattle
Seattle at Carolina
Chicago at Green Bay
New England at Cincinnati
Philadelphia at Washington
Arizona at Jacksonville
Jacksonville at Oakland
Minnesota at L.A. Chargers
Atlanta at San Francisco
L.A. Rams at Dallas
Buffalo at Pittsburgh

Monday, Dec. 16

Indianapolis at New Orleans

Jones runs Packers past Redskins

By KEITH JENKINS

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Slowing down led to a huge day for Aaron Jones.

After a 20-15 win over the Washington Redskins on Sunday, Jones credited Green Bay Packers running backs coach Ben Simmans with teaching him to take his time and let plays develop. Jones said thanks to Simmans' help, he was able to run wherever he wanted against Washington.

Jones rushed for a season-high 134 yards and a touchdown on just 16 carries, Aaron Rodgers threw for 195 yards and a score and the Packers did enough to put away the Redskins.

Jones had his third 100-yard rushing game of the season and hauled in six passes for 58 yards.

Adrian Peterson became the sixth back in NFL history to reach the 14,000-yard mark, running for 76 yards and a score for Washington (3-10), which was eliminated from playoff contention.

"It means a lot, man," said Peterson on reaching the career milestone. "It's history — six guys, I'm one of them. That kind of speaks for itself, so it's an amazing feeling, an amazing accomplishment."

Derrius Givens left after only five carries with a knee injury.



MONEY GASH/AP

The Packers' Aaron Jones runs past the Redskins' Jon Bostic during the first half on Sunday.

Ficken's FG on last play lifts Jets past Dolphins

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Sam Ficken kicked a 44-yard field goal as time expired to give New York a comeback victory over Miami.

Sam Darnold got the winning drive going with a short pass to Vincent Smith, who turned it into 27 yards. Ficken's kick included a high-step over a would-be tackler. After a sack two plays later put the ball at the Dolphins 46, Darnold threw an incomplete pass to Smith — but the Jets argued that Nik Needham interfered with the receiver.

Officials overturned the call after a video review — giving the Jets a first down and new life. A 12-yard catch by Ty Montgomery got the ball to the 26. Two plays later, Ficken won it.

Jets 22, Dolphins 21

N.Y. Jets	0	16	0	9-21
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First Quarter
Mia—FG Sanders 22, 3:08
Second Quarter
NJ—Randle 18 pass from Darnold (kick failed), 13:45.
NJ—FG Ficken 37, 11:01.
NJ—FG Sanders 25, 5:41.
NJ—Thomas 14 pass from Darnold (kick failed), 2:47.

Third Quarter
Mia—FG Sanders 28, 1:19.
Fourth Quarter
Mia—FG Sanders 53, 10:43.
Mia—FG Sanders 47, 6:59.
NJ—FG Ficken 42, 4:08.
NJ—FG Sanders 37, 3:13.
NJ—FG Ficken 44, 0:00.

A—70-232
Mia
First downs 18
Total Net Yards 362
Rushes-yards 26-122
Passing 161
Punt Returns 2-10
Kickoff Returns 1-23
Interceptions Ret. 1-3
Comp-Att-Int 21-37-1
Sacked-Yards Lost 2-5
Fumbles-Lost 1-0
Penalties-Yards 5-48
Time of Possession 29:54

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Miami, Fitzpatrick 7-65, Laird 15-84, Gaskin 1-32, Brown 19-74, Montgomery 9-31, Randle 1-40, Darnold 3-12.
PASSING—Miami, Fitzpatrick 21-37-1, 245; N.Y. Jets, Darnold 20-36-1, 270.
RECEIVING—Miami, Ford 6-92, Hines 5-68, Laird 4-38, D.Parker 2-28, Gaskin 1-6, Gaskin 1-6, Wilson 1-12, Brown 1-12, Randle 1-12, Crowder 3-30, Montgomery 3-30, Thomas 2-28, Powell 2-14, Smith 1-37, Griffin 1-8, Brown 1-8.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Miami, Sanders 34.

Defense delivers as Vikings sail past Lions

MINNEAPOLIS — Danielle Hunter had three of Minnesota's five sacks to spearhead a resurgence by the defense, and the Vikings sailed past Detroit 20-7 on Sunday to stick the Lions with their sixth straight loss.

Kirk Cousins passed for 242 yards and a touchdown in an efficient if unspectacular performance, and Dalvin Cook had 75 yards from scrimmage and a rushing score on 20 touches over four quarters as the Vikings (9-4) took it easy on their star tailback after an injury to his collarbone area forced him out of the previous game.

The defense stole the show, even though the opponent was undrafted rookie quarterback David Blough. Blough went 24-for-40 for 205 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions in the second half, and the Vikings yielded their lowest score in 31 regular-season games since a 16-0 win at Green Bay on Dec. 23, 2017.

Vikings 20, Lions 7

Detroit	0	0	0	7-20
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First Quarter
Min—O'Johnson 9 pass from Cousins (Blough kick), 5:47.
Second Quarter
Min—Cook 3 run (Bailey kick), 20.
Min—FG Bailey 50, 14:55.
Det—Golladay 10 pass from Blough (Pretzer kick), 2:09.
A—66-776.

Third Quarter
Min—FG Bailey 50, 14:55.
Fourth Quarter
Min—Cook 3 run (Bailey kick), 20.
Min—FG Bailey 50, 14:55.
Det—Golladay 10 pass from Blough (Pretzer kick), 2:09.
A—66-776.

Mia
First downs 18
Total Net Yards 362
Rushes-yards 26-122
Passing 161
Punt Returns 2-10
Kickoff Returns 1-23
Interceptions Ret. 1-3
Comp-Att-Int 21-37-1
Sacked-Yards Lost 2-5
Fumbles-Lost 1-0
Penalties-Yards 5-48
Time of Possession 29:54

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Detroit, Scarbro 19-65, Johnson 15-84, Gaskin 1-32, Brown 19-74, Montgomery 9-31, Randle 1-40, Darnold 3-12.
PASSING—Detroit, Blough 24-40-2, 205.
Minnesota, Cousins 24-30-0-42.
RECEIVING—Detroit, Golladay 6-58, Amende 1-4, McKissic 4-16, M.Jones 3-36, Thomas 2-21, James 1-25, Johnson 1-7, Scarbro 1-5, Nauta 1-3. Minnesota, Smith 1-12, Brown 1-12, Crowder 3-30, Montgomery 3-30, Thomas 2-28, Powell 2-14, Smith 1-37, Griffin 1-8, Brown 1-8.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Detroit, Prater 45.

Browns stay in playoff hunt with win over Cincy

CLEVELAND — Nick Chubb ran for 106 yards — 99 after halftime — and Baker Mayfield and Kareem Hunt had rushing touchdowns as Cleveland kept its faint playoff hopes alive by beating Cincinnati.

The Bengals have lost 10 straight AFC North games. Denzel Ward returned an interception 61 yards for Cleveland's first score and the Browns (6-7) got a huge late break. Mayfield's third interception was reversed with a rare interference call to bounce back after a discouraging loss at Pittsburgh last week.

Cleveland needs to turn the table to have any chance of ending its 17-year postseason drought, the NFL's current longest.

The Bengals (1-12) have dropped 19 of 21 over the past two seasons.

Browns 27, Bengals 19

Cincinnati	6	7	3	3-19
Cleveland	7	7	10	3-27

First Quarter
Cin—FG Bullock 34, 10:56.
Cle—Ward 61 interception return (Selbert kick), 5:36.
Cin—FG Bullock 44, 1:37.

Second Quarter
Cin—Mixon 1 run (Bullock kick), 12:07.
Cle—Mayfield 7 run (Selbert kick), 6:37.

Third Quarter
Cle—Hunt 3 run (Selbert kick), 12:10.
Cin—FG Bullock 28, 4:39.
Cle—FG Selbert 33, 2:47.

Fourth Quarter
Cle—FG Selbert 43, 1:06.
Cin—FG Bullock 46, 12:12.
A—67-431.

First downs 27 17
Total Net Yards 451 333
Rushes-yards 31-179 27-146
Passing 161 272
Punt Returns 1-0 2-16
Kickoff Returns 5-114 2-47
Interceptions Ret. 2-43 1-61
Comp-Att-Int 23-39-1 11-24-2
Sacked-Yards Lost 2-16 0-6
Penalties-Yards 8-99 6-30
Time of Possession 34:31 25:29

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Cincinnati, Mixon 23-146, Bernard 4-15, Dalton 1-12, Boyd 1-22.
Cleveland, Chubb 15-106, Hunt 9-28, Mayfield 2-12, Gilbert 1 (minus 1).
PASSING—Cincinnati, Dalton 22-38-1, 262; Erickson 1-10-0. Cleveland, Mayfield 2-13, 10-26.
RECEIVING—Cincinnati, Boyd 5-75, Ervin 1-15, Eiler 7-49, Mixon 3-40, Bernard 2-31, Ross 2-28, Tate 1-16, Uzomah 1-4, Cleveland, Landry 4-76, Hunt 2-40, Beckham 2-39, Seals-Jones 1-22, Chubb 1-11, Nicku 1-4.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

NFL



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Broncos quarterback Drew Lock celebrates a touchdown against the Texans on Sunday.

Lock throws 3 TDs as Broncos romp Texans

HOUSTON — Denver coach Vic Fangio expected to see some improvement from rookie quarterback Drew Lock on Sunday in his second career start.

He didn't dream he'd see this big of a jump.

Lock threw for 309 yards and three touchdowns, Kareem Jackson had an interception and returned a fumble 70 yards for a touchdown against his former team as the Broncos built a huge lead and coasted past Houston.

Fangio at first joked that the second-round pick out of Missouri was "just OK" before getting serious.

"He played, obviously, very well," Fangio said. "Made a great jump from Week 1 to Week 2, which is what you're hoping for. I thought he threw the ball much, much better than he did last week. I don't think he missed many things. To do that on his first road start against a team that's going to be in the playoffs makes it even better."

Lock, who made his NFL debut in a win over the Chargers last week, threw for 235 yards with three TDs in the first half.

Lock (5-8) scored on the third 38-3 lead early in the third quarter.

Broncos 38, Texans 28

Den—Fangio 14 11 0 38
Houston 0 3 17 24

First Quarter
Den—Fangio 14 pass from Lock (McManis kick), 7:27
Houston—Freeman 70 fumble return (McManis kick), 3:33

Second Quarter
Den—Heuerman 11 pass from Lock (McManis kick), 11:24
Houston—FD Fairbairn 54, 8:49
Den—FD McManis 3, 3:04
Houston—Freeman 3 pass from Lock (McManis kick), 3:37

Third Quarter
Houston—Hopkins 43 pass from D. Watson (Fairbairn kick), 7:36
Den—Lindsey 43 pass from D. Watson (Fairbairn kick), 7:36

Fourth Quarter
Houston—D. Watson 6 run (Fairbairn kick), 13:34
Houston—D. Watson 3 run (Fairbairn kick), 13:34

A—71, 769.
First downs 26
Total Net Yards 301
Rushes-yards 27-50
Passing-yards 23-234
Punt Returns 1-2
Kickoff Returns 1-2
Interceptions Ret. 2-15
Sacked-Yards Lost 22-17

Penalties-Yards 2-43
Fumbles-Lost 1-0
Punt Returns 7-50
Time of Possession 31:25

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Denver, Freeman 16-51, Freeman 8-24, Lock 3-15, Houston, Hyde 14-73, Watson 6-44, Hopkins 1-12.

PASSING—Denver, Lock 27-1309, Houston, Watson 28-292.
RECEIVING—Denver, Stills 2-34, Fant 4-4, Patrick 2-50, Booker 2-24, Freeman 2-28, Lindsay 2-4, Beck 1-29, Heuerman 1-8, Fumagalli 1-3.
Houston, Hopkins 7-120, D. Johnson 6-60, Coulter 2-6, Atkins 4-49, Stills 2-6, Wells 2-22.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Winston's 456 yards, 4 TDs rally Bucs

TAMPA, Fla. — Tampa Bay isn't giving up on Jameis Winston or its season.

The suddenly red-hot Buccaneers (6-7) will miss the playoffs for the 12th straight year despite rallying to beat Indianapolis for their third consecutive victory.

Winston continued to state his case for keeping the starting quarterback job beyond 2019, overcoming another turnover-marred performance by throwing for 456 yards and four touchdowns including the winner with 3:51 remaining.

And, he did it despite playing the second half with what coach Bruce Arians described as a "little bitty fracture" in his right thumb.

"He was fine at halftime. When he went to grip the ball, he couldn't grip it. So they X-rayed his thumb," Arians said, adding the injury was not serious.

Arians had declined to commit to Winston as Tampa Bay's quarterback of the future, saying last week that he will wait until the end of the season to make a decision.

In the meantime, the Bucs want to finish strong as possible.

"The resiliency of this team is growing on me," Arians said. "Three in a row. (Indianapolis) is a good team missing some guys. It wasn't our best, but we won. That's nice."

Winston overcame throwing three interceptions and having one returned for a TD for the fifth time this season to wipe out a 14-point, second-half deficit. He completed 33 of 45 passes and the Bucs scored TDs all four times they drove inside the Colts 20.

The Colts (6-7) have dropped five of six following a 5-2 start, falling from first place to third in the AFC South.

Buccaneers 38, Colts 35

Ind—Winston 10 17 8 0-35
Tampa Bay 14 14 138

First Quarter
Ind—Johnson 46 pass from Brissett (McLaughlin kick), 12:45
Ind—FD McLaughlin 50, 6:53
TB—Winston 1 run (Gay kick), 1:41
TB—Evans 61 pass from Winston (Gay kick), 1:00

Second Quarter
Ind—McK—FD McLaughlin kick, 7:42
Ind—Leonard 80 interception return (McLaughlin kick), 2:32
TB—Brate 3 pass from Winston (Gay kick), 1:38
Ind—FD McLaughlin 19, 0:00

Third Quarter
Ind—Pascal 12 pass from Brissett (Pascal punt from 10), 11:58
TB—Winston 17 pass from Winston (Gay kick), 3:18

Fourth Quarter
TB—FD Gay 44, 13:00
TB—Perriman 12 pass from Winston (Gay kick), 3:51
A—50, 322.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Indianapolis, Mack 13-38, Stills 4-26, Winston 1-0, Campbell 1-0.
Tampa Bay, Jones 11-36, Barber 11-34, Winston 1-1.

PASSING—Indianapolis, Brissett 19-36-25, Tampa Bay, Winston 33-45-3.

RECEIVING—Indianapolis, Pascal 5-74, Hines 2-24, Johnson 3-105, Campbell 1-12, Doyle 2-27, Allen 0-18, Travis 1-1.

Tampa Bay, Godwin 7-91, McWilliams 2-63, Henry 2-39, Green 1-14, Jacksonville, Chark 1-75, Westbrook 6-25, O'Leary 4-40, Fourtette 3-12, Cole 1-12, Walker 1-8.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Indianapolis, McLaughlin 47.



MIKE STEWART/AP

Falcons wide receiver Olanide Zacheaus, left, makes the catch against Panthers cornerback Dontae Jackson during the second half on Sunday in Atlanta. The play went for a 93-yard touchdown.

Chargers end skid, hand Jags 5th straight rout

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jacksonville coach Doug Marrone sat slumped in a chair in his office, his head down and his face planted in both hands. He looked like his team played: uninspired and ready for the season to be over.

Philip Rivers threw for 314 yards and three touchdowns on his 38th birthday, including an 84-yarder to Austin Ekeler that was the longest completion of his 16-year NFL career, and the Chargers routed the Jaguars to end a three-game skid.

It was Jacksonville's fifth consecutive lopsided loss, all by at least 17 points. The 1986 Tampa Bay Buccaneers were the last NFL team to drop five straight by at least 17.

The Chargers (5-8) scored on four of five possessions in the first half, picking apart Jacksonville's beleaguered defense and taking a 24-3 into the locker room. It was a welcome cushion for a team whose eight losses each came by seven points or fewer.

Chargers 45, Jaguars 10

L.A. Chargers 7 17 14 7-45
Jacksonville 0 7 0 10-10

First Quarter
Jag—FD Lambo 26, 7:23.
LAC—Gordon 1 run (Badgley kick), 5:50.

Second Quarter
LAC—Walt 1 run (Badgley kick), 5:18.
LAC—Henry 30 pass from Rivers (Badgley kick), 1:34.
LAC—FD Badgley 40, 0:03.

Third Quarter
LAC—Ekeler 64 pass from Rivers (Badgley kick), 13:53.
Jag—O'Leary 12 pass from Minshew (Lambo kick), 5:48.
LAC—McWilliams 44 pass from Rivers (Badgley kick), 1:51.

Fourth Quarter
LAC—Green 16 pass from Taylor (Badgley kick), 13:53.
A—57, 866.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Chargers, Ekeler 8-101, Gordon 12-55, Jackson 3-25, Taylor 4-10, Minshew 2-10, Rivers 1-0, Cooke 1-0-9.

PASSING—Chargers, Rivers 26-40-0, Taylor 3-5-26, Jacksonville, Minshew 24-37-0-162, Cooke 1-0-9.

RECEIVING—L.A. Chargers, Allen 5-83, Cook 2-23, Green 1-12, McWilliams 2-63, Henry 2-39, Green 1-14, Jacksonville, Chark 1-75, Westbrook 6-25, O'Leary 4-40, Fourtette 3-12, Cole 1-12, Walker 1-8.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Tannehill leads Titans to fourth straight win

OAKLAND, Calif. — The way the Tennessee offense is rolling under Ryan Tannehill, an early interception proved to be an easy obstacle to overcome.

Tannehill threw for 391 yards and three touchdowns, Derrick Henry ran for two scores and the Titans won their fourth straight game by beating Oakland.

"Every time we touched it, we felt like we were going to score," Tannehill said. "It was just a belief of everyone in the huddle, the run game was going, guys were making plays outside. We had belief in each other."

That's the way it has been ever since Tannehill replaced Marcus Mariota as starter after Week 6. The Titans (8-5) have won six of seven games since then to move into a tie with Houston for first place in the AFC South.

Tennessee scored touchdowns on five of the next seven possessions after the interception. The Titans are second in the NFL in scoring with Tannehill at quarterback at 31.4 points per game.

Titans 42, Raiders 20

Tennessee 7 14 7 14-42
Oakland 0 7 14 0-21

First Quarter
Oak—Washington 15 run (Carlson kick), 7:43.
Ten—Henry 12 run (Succop kick), 3:21.

Second Quarter
Ten—A-Brown 91 pass from Tannehill (Succop kick), 14:04.
Oak—Gafford 49 pass from Carr (Carlson kick), 11:21.

Third Quarter
Ten—A-Brown 16 pass from Tannehill (Succop kick), 6:52.
Ten—Moreau 1 pass from Carr (Carlson kick), 2:4.

Fourth Quarter
Ten—Henry 10 run (Succop kick), 5:36.
Ten—J-Smith 17 pass from Tannehill (Succop kick), 14:29.
Ten—A-Brown 46 fumble return (Succop kick), 13:12.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Tennessee, Henry 18-103, Lewis 9-26, Tannehill 4-19, A-Brown 1-13.
Oakland, Waller 3-23, Washington 1-6, Moore 1-0, Atlanta, Freeman 11-53, Hill 9-62, Ryan 1-5, Ollison 4-6, Schaud 1-0.

PASSING—Tennessee, Tannehill 27-17-1391, Oakland, Carr 25-34-0-263.

RECEIVING—Tennessee, A-Brown 5-153, Hill 4-24, Samuel 3-17, Bortone 1-6, game 2-47, Davis 2-34, Pruitt 1-12, Firkser 1-29, Raymond 1-11, Henry 1-6, Lewis 1-6, Williams 3-35, Doss 3-26, Moreau 3-14, Richard 2-18, Gafford 1-49, Jones 1-5.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Tennessee, Succop 42.

Ryan leads Falcons to another big win

ATLANTA — Matt Ryan threw the longest touchdown pass of his career and became the 10th quarterback in NFL history to reach 50,000 yards, leading Atlanta to another dominating win over Carolina.

The Panthers (5-8) were officially eliminated from playoff contention with their fifth straight loss, which ruined the debut of interim coach Perry Fewell. He took over at the beginning of the week after longtime coach Ron Rivera was fired.

Atlanta (4-9) snapped a two-game losing streak and swept the season series, winning the first meeting 29-3.

Throwing from his own end zone, Ryan finished off the Panthers with a 93-yard touchdown pass to little-used Olanide Zacheaus in the third quarter. It was a milestone play for both — the longest TD of Ryan's 12-year career, and the first career reception for Zacheaus, an undrafted rookie.

Falcons 40, Panthers 20

Atlanta 0 10 0 10-20
Carolina 3 10 17 10-40

First Quarter
Car—FD Sylvé 46, 14:51.
Atl—Ridley 15 pass from Ryan (Koo kick), 5:15.

Second Quarter
Atl—Freeman 1 pass from Kallen (Sylvé kick), 1:05.
Atl—FD Koo 35, 0:00.

Third Quarter
Atl—Freeman 13 run (Koo kick), 11:08.
Atl—Zacheaus 83 pass from Ryan (Koo kick), 6:30.

Fourth Quarter
Atl—FD Koo 50, 11:40.
Atl—Hill 3 run (Koo kick), 5:08.
Atl—Kallen 11 run (Sylvé kick), 1:26.
A—70, 592.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Atlanta, McCaffrey 11-53, Allen 2-24, Samuel 3-17, Bortone 1-6, Moore 1-0, Atlanta, Freeman 11-53, Hill 9-62, Ryan 1-5, Ollison 4-6, Schaud 1-0.

PASSING—Atlanta, Allen 28-41-2,293, Atlanta, Ryan 20-34-0-313.

RECEIVING—Atlanta, McCaffrey 11-82, Hill 2-24, Samuel 3-17, Bortone 1-6, Moore 1-0, Atlanta, Freeman 11-53, Hill 9-62, Ryan 1-5, Ollison 4-6, Schaud 1-0.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

NFL

Rams top Seahawks, stay in hunt

Seattle's five-game streak comes to end

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — When Todd Gurley flattened Tre Flowers with a brutal stiff arm on his path to Los Angeles' final touchdown, the Rams delivered a clear message right to the face of the Seahawks and the NFL.

Although it's too soon to say whether the Rams solved their offensive problems in time to make the playoffs, the team that dazzled the league in the past two seasons will be dangerous down the stretch.

"We're finally playing the way we should have been playing," Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald said.

Jared Goff passed for 293 yards and two touchdowns, Gurley ran for 79 yards and that decisive fourth-quarter TD and the Rams prevented Seattle from clinching a playoff berth with a 28-12 victory Sunday night.

From start to finish in their final game under the Coliseum lights, the Rams (8-5) looked like their most dangerous selves of the previous two seasons. In their fifth win in seven games, the Rams had little trouble derailed the powerful Seahawks' five-game winning streak.

"I think this is a different team now with a different mentality," left tackle Andrew Whitworth said. "I think we're shooting our shot in the next three weeks. You can certainly see signs of last year. You don't control your future, but we control how we come out here."

Robert Woods and Cooper Kupp caught TD passes while the Rams kept their playoff hopes burning with an aggressive, inventive game plan on both sides of the



MARQUI JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Rams cornerback Troy Hill, left, celebrates after his interception with Marqui Christian, right, and Jalen Ramsey on Sunday in Los Angeles.

ball. They also left the Seahawks reeling from their first road defeat of the season after sacking Russell Wilson five times.

Los Angeles still trails Minnesota (9-4) by a game for the second wild card spot and its third straight playoff berth, but its chances improved with this critical division win.

The Seahawks (10-3) fell out of first place in the NFC West with just their second loss since Sept. 22.

"This was a rough night," coach Pete Carroll said. "We did not do what we planned to do at all. You've got to hand it to them. They played great. They did everything they wanted to do."

Wilson passed for 245 yards amid constant pressure from the Rams. Quandre Diggs returned an interception 55 yards for a touchdown early in the third quarter, but it was the Seahawks' only touchdown.

"Obviously it felt like we

weren't ourselves out there," said Seattle tight end Jacob Hollister, who had a key drop. "They outplayed us, and we've just got to keep working."

Woods had seven catches for 98 yards and his first touchdown of the season, and tight end Tyler Higbee had seven catches for a career-high 116 yards as the Rams looked like the thrilling offensive unit led by coach Sean McVay in his first two seasons.

McVay called a game plan full of jet sweeps and tricky schemes. He also continued to give more late-season action to Gurley, who responded emphatically.

These NFC West rivals' first meeting of the season was decided by the Rams' missed field goal with 11 seconds remaining from ago in Seattle. Los Angeles didn't let it get nearly that close this time.

The Rams' offense started off with two touchdown drives. Malcolm Brown punched in the open-

Surging Steelers beat Cardinals

By DAVID BRANDT
Associated Press

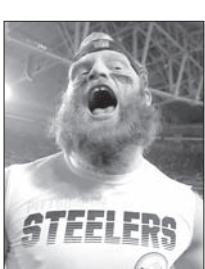
GLENDALE, Ariz. — Pittsburgh's defense was great and the Duck was just fine. "Today was a wonder how this bunch keeps piecing together wins, a clearer picture is beginning to emerge."

Maybe the Steelers are just pretty good.

Diontae Johnson returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown and the defense had three crucial interceptions in the second half as Pittsburgh beat Arizona 23-17 on Sunday for its seventh win in eight games.

"We're going to be unashamedly afraid," Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin said. "Today was enough. We'll get ready for the next challenge that the National Football League presents us."

Pittsburgh's defense came up big with the interceptions — two by Joe Haden and another by T.J. Ward — and promoting Arizona drives, including two that had



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Steelers linebacker Tyler Matakevich celebrates after Sunday's 23-17 win over the Cardinals in Glendale, Ariz.

ventured into Steelers territory.

"Everybody expects us to make the play," Haden said. "We're just depending on ourselves."

Pittsburgh (8-5) won again to stay in the AFC playoff race. Rookie free agent quarterback Devlin "Duck" Hodges made his third career start, completing 16 of 19 passes for 152 yards and a touchdown.

Hodges didn't need to make many tough throws but came through with a good one in the third quarter, hitting Johnson in the front corner of the end zone for a 2-yard touchdown that gave the Steelers a 20-10 lead.

"Great protection, great route," Hodges said. "It's all about timing."

Hodges also finished with 34 yards rushing.

Arizona's Kyler Murray completed 20 of 30 passes for 194 yards and two touchdowns, but his three interceptions were costly.

"That's a great defense, and they obviously made more plays than us today," Murray said. The Cardinals (3-9-1) lost their sixth consecutive game.

Rams 28, Seahawks 12

Seattle	3	0	3	12
L.A. Rams	14	0	7	28

Sea—FG Myers 39, 1 run (Zuerlein kick), 5:08.
LAR—M-Brown 1 run (Zuerlein kick), 5:08.

First Quarter

LAR—R.Woods 2 pass from Goff (Zuerlein kick), 11:28.
LAR—Kupp 10 pass from Goff (Zuerlein kick), 5:1.

Second Quarter

Sea—Diggs 55 interception return (kick failed), 12:54.
LAR—Gurley 7 run (Zuerlein kick), 11:07.

Third Quarter

Sea—FG Myers 34, 7:03.
A—71-501.

Fourth Quarter

Sea—FG Myers 34, 7:03.
A—71-501.

First downs 16 26
Total Net Yards 308 455
Rushes-yards 21-106 35-182
Passing 202 293
Punt Returns 2-3 2-1
Kickoff Returns 0-0 2-35
Interceptions Ret. 6-5 22-32
Comp-Att-Int 22-36-1 22-32-2
Sacked-Yards Lost 5-43 0-0
Punts 5-46-0 3-50-7
Fumbles-Lost 2-0 0-0
Penalties-Yards 6-64 2-0
Time of Possession 28:56 31:04

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Seattle, Carson 15-76, Wilson 5-28, Prosser 1-2. L.A. Rams, Gurley 23-75, Woods 2-25, Reynolds 3-29, Brown 5-21, Goff 2-4.
PASSING—Seattle, Wilson 22-36-1, 245. L.A. Rams, Goff 22-31-2, 293. Kupp 0-1-0.

RECEIVING—Seattle, Metcalf 6-78, Lockett 4-43, Hollister 4-34, Carson 3-15, Gordon 2-34, Penny 1-16, Moore 1-15, Turner 1-10. L.A. Rams, Higbee 7-116, Wood 6-98, Kupp 4-45, Gurley 4-34.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—L.A. Rams, Zuerlein 37.

ing TD after Higbee's 33-yard interception put Los Angeles on the goal line, and Woods then caught a short TD pass to cap an 85-yard drive.

Goff led another TD drive late in the first half, connecting with Kupp from 10 yards out with 51 seconds left, while Wilson was left frustrated by the Rams' defense and his own receivers' drops.

Goff and Woods miscommunicated at midfield on the opening drive of the second half, and Diggs' 55-yard interception ended his second career touchdown and his second interception in his first four games with Seattle.

Diggs grabbed his third interception for the Seahawks on the next series, catching an over-the-shoulder pass by Goff. Former USC star Rasheen Green then blocked a field goal attempt by the Rams, but Seattle's offense was unable to capitalize, with Wilson repeatedly getting rocked by blitzing Rams.

Steelers 23, Cardinals 17

Pittsburgh	10	3	7	23
Arizona	0	10	0	17

Pit—FG Boswell 30, 4:20.
Pit—D-Johnson 85 punt return (Boswell kick), 2:52.

First Quarter

Ari—FG Gonzalez 30, 11:15.
Ari—Clay 5 pass from K.Murray (Gonzalez kick), 1:57.

Second Quarter

Pit—FG Boswell 37, 3:00.
Pit—D-Johnson 2 pass from Hodges (Boswell kick), 2:00.

Third Quarter

Ari—Da-Johnson 24 pass from K.Murray (Gonzalez kick), 6:44.
Pit—FG Boswell 25, 1:48.

Fourth Quarter

A—63-880.
First downs 20 17
Total Net Yards 216 236
Rushes-yards 35-140 22-96
Passing 135 165
Punt Returns 1-28 1-37
Kickoff Returns 2-24 3-68
Interceptions Ret. 4-4 1-8
Comp-Att-Int 16-19-0 24-30-3
Sacked-Yards Lost 3-17 2-9
Punts 2-46-0 3-55-0
Fumbles-Lost 3-2 1-0
Penalties-Yards 4-20 2-10
Time of Possession 31:54 28:06

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Pittsburgh, Whyte 5-41, Snell 16-41, Hodges 5, Johnson 1-16, Samura 7-16, Bird (miscellaneous) 1-3, Arizona, Kirk 8-85, Drake 3-30, Fitzgerald 3-20, D-Johnson 2-34, Byrd 1-10, Clay 1-5, Cooper 1-5, Isabella 1-3.

RECEIVING—Pittsburgh, Johnson 6-60, Washington 2-3, Samuels 2-18, Cain 1-27, Whyte 1-9, Edmunds 1-7, McDonald 1-3, Arizona, Kirk 8-85, Drake 3-30, Fitzgerald 3-20, D-Johnson 2-34, Byrd 1-10, Clay 1-5, Cooper 1-5, Isabella 1-3.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Thrilling: 49ers edge Saints on Gold's FG

FROM BACK PAGE

player he is, but I'm telling you he's a baller," 49ers receiver Emmanuel Sanders said. "When you've got somebody like Jimmy with the personality he has and the hard work he puts in, in the clutch moments, he's not going to fold."

The Saints took their last lead on Brees' fifth touchdown pass of the game, an 18-yarder to Tre Quan Smith with 53 seconds left. But Brees' pass on an attempted two-point conversion fell incomplete, leaving New Orleans' lead at one point.

"This was like a heavy weight boxing match, just trading punches all game long," Brees said. "Unfortunately they were the ones who came out on top."

The win kept San Francisco (11-2) in pole position to capture the top seed in the NFC playoffs. The 49ers have the conference's best record (11-0-1) to already lead the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday.

Brees finished 29-for-40 for 349 yards and also moved across the goal line for a touchdown. Michael Thomas caught 11 passes for 134 yards and a score, but the 49ers' 10-0 record ahead of the NFC South champions, were done in by a few critical failures.

49ers 48, Saints 46

San Francisco	7	21	7	13	48
New Orleans	14	6	17	11	48

NO—Cook 38 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 11:34.
SF—Bourne 6 pass from Garoppolo (Goldick kick), 8:26.

NO—Cook 26 pass from Brees (run failed), 4:51.

Second Quarter
NO—Hilli 3 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 11:34.
SF—Sanders 75 pass from Garoppolo (Goldick kick), 1:45.

NO—Brees 1-1 pass (Goldick), 7:29.
SF—Mostert 35 pass from Sanders (Goldick kick), 5:58.

SF—Mostert 10 run (Goldick kick), 4:2.
Third Quarter
NO—FG Lutz 55, 12:36.

SF—Hilli 5 pass from Garoppolo (Goldick kick), 9:40.
NO—FG Lutz 48, 4:51.

SF—Bourne 6 pass from Garoppolo (Goldick kick), 1:45.
NO—M-Thomas 21 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 5:05.

SF—FG Goldick 41, 2:23.
NO—Smith 18 pass from Brees (pass failed), 2:3.
SF—FG Goldick 30, 0:4.

A—71-038.
First downs 25 26
Total Net Yards 516 475
Rushes-yards 24-116 25-140
Passing 291 349
Punt Returns 1-3 1-37
Kickoff Returns 1-3 1-37
Interceptions Ret. 0-0 2-14
Comp-Att-Int 27-40-0 29-41-0
Sacked-Yards Lost 3-30 0-0
Punts 3-47-0 3-50-7
Fumbles-Lost 3-0 2-1
Penalties-Yards 10-67 8-50
Time of Possession 32:01 31:23

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—San Francisco, Sanders 16-69, Breida 5-64, Samuel 2-33, Coleman 3-69, Brees 1-21, James 1-10, Jimmie 1-15, Thill 5-13, Harris 4-8, Brees 1-1.

PASSING—San Francisco, Garoppolo 26-35-1, 349. Sanders 1-10-35, New Orleans, Brees 29-40-0, 349. Smith 2-29, Murray 2-25, Hill 2-4, Harris 1-13, Thill 1-12.

RECEIVING—San Francisco, Sanders 7-157, Kittle 6-67, Samuel 5-76, Aschcay 3-22, Bourne 3-18, Murray 2-18, Thill 5-13, Harris 4-8, Brees 1-1.

PASSING—San Francisco, Garoppolo 26-35-1, 349. Sanders 1-10-35, New Orleans, Brees 29-40-0, 349. Smith 2-29, Murray 2-25, Hill 2-4, Harris 1-13, Thill 1-12.

RECEIVING—San Francisco, Sanders 7-157, Kittle 6-67, Samuel 5-76, Aschcay 3-22, Bourne 3-18, Murray 2-18, Thill 5-13, Harris 4-8, Brees 1-1.

PASSING—San Francisco, Garoppolo 26-35-1, 349. Sanders 1-10-35, New Orleans, Brees 29-40-0, 349. Smith 2-29, Murray 2-25, Hill 2-4, Harris 1-13, Thill 1-12.

RECEIVING—San Francisco, Sanders 7-157, Kittle 6-67, Samuel 5-76, Aschcay 3-22, Bourne 3-18, Murray 2-18, Thill 5-13, Harris 4-8, Brees 1-1.

PASSING—San Francisco, Garoppolo 26-35-1, 349. Sanders 1-10-35, New Orleans, Brees 29-40-0, 349. Smith 2-29, Murray 2-25, Hill 2-4, Harris 1-13, Thill 1-12.

RECEIVING—San Francisco, Sanders 7-157, Kittle 6-67, Samuel 5-76, Aschcay 3-22, Bourne 3-18, Murray 2-18, Thill 5-13, Harris 4-8, Brees 1-1.

PASSING—San Francisco, Garoppolo 26-35-1, 349. Sanders 1-10-35, New Orleans, Brees 29-40-0, 349. Smith 2-29, Murray 2-25, Hill 2-4, Harris 1-13, Thill 1-12.

RECEIVING—San Francisco, Sanders 7-157, Kittle 6-67, Samuel 5-76, Aschcay 3-22, Bourne 3-18, Murray 2-18, Thill 5-13, Harris 4-8, Brees 1-1.

PASSING—San Francisco, Garoppolo 26-35-1, 349. Sanders 1-10-35, New Orleans, Brees 29-40-0, 349. Smith 2-29, Murray 2-25, Hill 2-4, Harris 1-13, Thill 1-12.

NFL



ELISE AMENDO/AP

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes grabs the face mask of New England Patriots linebacker Kyle Van Noy, right, as he rolls out to pass during the second half on Sunday in Foxborough, Mass. Mahomes was penalized on the play.

Chiefs survive errors in win over Patriots

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Patrick Mahomes got some help from the Chiefs' defense to hold off the New England Patriots and wrap up the division title.

Kansas City clinched the AFC West when Bashaud Breeland knocked away Tom Brady's fourth-down pass attempt to Julian Edelman in the end zone and the Chiefs beat New England 23-16 on Sunday.

After building a 20-7 lead, the Chiefs survived a series of mistakes and questionable officiating to hold off a late rally by the defending Super Bowl champions.

Combined with Oakland's loss to Tennessee, the Chiefs (9-4) clinched the AFC West. The loss ended the Patriots' 21-game home winning streak in the regular season and playoffs, which was tied for the longest in team history. It also was the third-longest string in NFL history.

Mahomes was 26-for-40 for 283 yards, a touchdown and interception, playing through a hand injury he suffered during Kansas City's second offensive series. Tight end Travis Kelce added a 4-yard TD run.

Mahomes now is the third quarterback this season to earn his first win against the Patriots, joining Baltimore's Lamar Jackson and Houston's Deshaun Watson. All three were previously 0-2.

"You want to beat the best. You want to go out and play against the best and give your best effort," Mahomes said. "It wasn't pretty the whole time. It was just a tough, hard-fought win."

New England (10-3) has lost two in a row.

Tom Brady had under pressure all game and finished 19 of 36 for 169 yards, a touchdown and interception. The 169 yards are his second-fewest passing yards this season. He spoke after the game with his right elbow heavily wrapped.

Chiefs 23, Patriots 16

Kansas City 3 17 3 0-23
New England 7 0 6 3-16

First Quarter
NE—Edelman 37 pass from Brady (Folk kick), 12:34.
KC—FG Butker 48, 7:12.

Second Quarter
KC—Harding 48 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 13:04.
KC—Kelce 4 run (Butker kick), 9:33.
KC—FG Butker 31, 5:59.

Third Quarter
KC—FG Butker 41, 8:46.
NE—Balden 10 run (run failed), 4:23.
NE—FG Folk 29, 11:42.

Fourth Quarter
NE—FG Folk 29, 11:42.
A—65,878.

	KC	NE
First downs	20	17
Total Net Yards	346	278
Rushes-yards	29-75	22-94
Passing	271	184
Punt Returns	3-20	0-0
Kickoff Returns	3-73	5-97
Interceptions Ret.	1-4	1-6
Comp-Att-Int	26-40-1	20-37-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-12	3-20
Punts	4-32.8	4-41.3
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	10-136	5-25
Time of Possession	34:21	25:39

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Kansas City, McCoy 11-39, Ware 5-11, Hill 2-8, Thompson 4-7, Mahomes 6-6, Kelce 1-4. **New England**, White 6-33, Brady 2-20, Burkhead 7-15, Bolden 10-10, Edelman 1-8, Michel 5-8.

PASSING—Kansas City, Mahomes 26-40-1. **RECEIVING**—Kansas City, Kelce 7-66, Hill 6-62, Watkins 4-50, Thompson 4-36, Hardman 1-48, Pringle 1-14, Robinson 1-12, McCoy 1-4, Ware 1-minus 50. **New England**, Edelman 9-95, White 5-27, Harty 1-12, Watson 1-7, Michel 1-1.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—New England, Folk 41.

"They threw a lot of different defenses at us," Brady said. "Some we handled well and some we didn't."

Blocked: Ebner's punt block in the third quarter was the Patriots fourth of 2019, setting a franchise record for a season. With one more they will tie the 1990 Chiefs for the most blocked punts in a season in NFL history.

Missing equipment: The Kansas City Chiefs needed a police escort to get their equipment to Foxborough, Mass., in time for kickoff.

Chiefs spokesman Ted Crews confirmed that some of the gear was sent to the wrong place and had to be rushed to the stadium. It arrived about two hours before kickoff. The Massachusetts State Police testified that they helped the equipment get to the stadium from Logan Airport.

Ravens clinch playoff berth

Jackson's three TD passes lead Baltimore past Bills

By JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Coach John Harbaugh happily discovered it's going to take more than clinching a second consecutive playoff berth to impress Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens.

Whether it's the sign of a team stinging from the memories of last year's AFC wild-card playoff loss to the Los Angeles Chargers, or simply the fact that there are three games left in the season, Harbaugh didn't see many signs of celebration after the Ravens became the conference's first team to secure a postseason berth following a 24-17 win over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday.

"I tried to make a big deal out of it in the locker room, and the guys kind of gave me a smattering of applause," said Harbaugh, who led Baltimore to its eighth playoff berth in his 12 seasons. "They've expected that and I think they earned the right to expect that."

Jackson wasn't all too impressed with the accomplishment, calling it "pretty cool," and yet he appreciated the playoff-like test the Bills presented in a matchup of winning teams.

"Both teams coming out and trying to prove themselves and they did that," said Jackson. "But we ended up coming out on top."

Baltimore extended its franchise-best winning streak to nine straight and improved to 11-2, its best record through 13 games in team history. The Ravens could have clinched the AFC North title with a Pittsburgh loss at Arizona later in the day, but the Steelers won.

Buffalo (9-4) had a three-game winning streak snapped, and fell short 10 days since receiving national attention following a 26-15 win at Dallas on Thanksgiving Day. Despite the loss, the Bills are still in control of their playoff future as they continue to hold down the first of the AFC's two wild-card spots.

"I'm frustrated by the loss," rookie defensive tackle Ed Oliver said. "Forget hanging with the team. If we wanted to just hang with the team, we could lose every game. But ultimately, we're here to win and that's the most frustrating part."

Jackson finished 16-for-25 for 145 yards passing with three touchdowns and an interception in a game the Ravens' offense was mostly held in check. Baltimore was held to a season-low 257 yards, and punted seven times for an offense that entered the game with just 24 yards on the season.

With 40 yards rushing, Jackson upped his total to 1,017, which is 23 short of breaking the single-season record for quarterbacks set by Michael Vick in 2006.

What defined Jackson was his ability to overcome the Bills' blanketing his favorite target, rookie Marquise Brown, who was held to



JOHN MUNSON/AP

Baltimore Ravens tight end Nick Boyle (86) is upended by Buffalo Bills strong safety Micah Hyde during Sunday's game in Orchard Park, N.Y. The Ravens won 24-17.

three catches for minus-2 yards, and after losing starting tight end Mark Andrews to a knee injury in the second quarter.

Jackson creatively found other targets to counter Buffalo's otherwise swarming defense.

"I though Lamar played with great poise," Harbaugh said. "He just has so much self-awareness to extend the play and find an open player."

Buffalo's Josh Allen finished 17-for-39 for 146 yards with a lost fumble, and was sacked a second high six times.

Kicking it: Bills kicker Stephen Hauschka responded by hitting all three of his field-goal attempts, including a 48-yarder, during a week his job security was placed into question. Coach Sean McDermott said the Bills put in a waiver claim for Chase McLaughlin on Wednesday only to have him land in Indianapolis, which was higher in the claim order.

Hauschka was coming off a 26-15 win at Dallas in which he missed a field goal and extra-point attempt.

Ravens 24, Bills 17

Baltimore 3 7 7 0-24
Buffalo 0 6 3 8-17

First Quarter
Bal—FG Tucker 36, 4:56.

Second Quarter
Bal—Boyle 3 pass from Jackson (Tucker kick), 13:31.
Sack—FG Hauschka 36, 8:20.
Buf—FG Hauschka 47, 2:25.

Third Quarter
Bal—Hurst 61 pass from Jackson (Tucker kick), 13:34.
Buf—Beasley 3 pass from Allen (Beasley pass from Allen), 7:50.

Fourth Quarter
Bal—Snead 4 pass from Jackson (Tucker kick), 9:49.
Buf—Beasley 3 pass from Allen (Beasley pass from Allen), 7:50.

A—69,134.

	Bal	Buf
First downs	18	16
Total Net Yards	257	209
Rushes-yards	33-118	23-104
Passing	109	109
Punt Returns	1-1	2-22
Kickoff Returns	0-0	5-82
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	16-25-1	17-39-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-6	1-41
Punts	7-44.1	7-42.9
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	9-99	5-49
Time of Possession	32:49	27:11

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Baltimore, Ingram 15-50, Jackson 11-40, Edwards 4-20, Hill 3-8. **Buf**, Singletary 17-89, Allen 2-9, Gore 4-6.

PASSING—Baltimore, Jackson 16-25-1. **Buf**, Allen 17-39-0. **RECEIVING**—Baltimore, H-Hurst 3-73, Ingram 3-29, Snead 3-13, M-Brown 3-minus 2, Boyle 2-10, Andrews 1-14, Roberts 1-8. **Buf**, Singletary 6-29, Beasley 4-29, Brown 3-26, McKenzie 3-25, Knox 1-37.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

SPORTS



He's an All-Star

Lakers' Davis scores season-high 50 in 'smash mouth' performance » **Page 19**

NFL

Good as gold

49ers take big step toward securing NFC's top seed with thrilling last-second victory over Saints

By **BRETT MARTEL**
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Jimmy Garoppolo decisively delivered a fourth-down pass to George Kittle with time running out, and the veteran tight end vigorously galloped up the sideline, embracing an opportunity to defiantly jerk his head back and forth as a Saints defender grabbed his face mask.

"Run through people, but have a good time doing it," Kittle said of his mindset, which seemed to be contagious across his team.

With that adrenaline-fueled play — which netted 53 yards after the Saints' penalty — Drew

Brees' late-game heroics moments earlier were virtually undone and the 49ers took a crucial step toward securing the top playoff seeding in the NFC.

Robbie Gould kicked a 30-yard field goal as time expired, sending San Francisco players streaming onto the Superdome turf to celebrate a 48-46 victory over New Orleans on Sunday.

Garoppolo finished with 349 yards and four touchdowns passing. His clutch connection with Kittle on fourth-and-2 from the San Francisco 33 was his 26th and final completion on 35 attempts.

"I know a lot of people are still looking at him to see what kind of

SEE THRILLING ON PAGE 22



San Francisco tight end George Kittle celebrates his second half touchdown during the 49ers' 48-46 victory over the Saints on Sunday in New Orleans.

BRETT DUKE / AP

Inside: Ravens clinch playoffs, Page 23 ■ Rams top Seahawks, Page 22

